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Japan

Kaifu Seeks Postelection Meeting With Bush

OW2401030990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0054 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Washington, Jan. 23 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu asked for a meeting with U.S. President George Bush after the Diet election In February, a senior official of the Japanese Foreign Ministry said in Washington on Tuesday. Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada said at a news conference he conveyed Kaifu's message to Bush through Secretary of State James Baker and Bush's national security adviser Brent Scowcroft in separate meetings.

No specific date or place for a Kaifu-Bush meeting was discussed, Owada told reporters after briefing the U.S. officials on Kaifu's recent trip to Europe. He said both Baker and Scowcroft fully agreed with the Japanese Government's view that the United States, Japan, and Western Europe should maintain close contacts to promote democratic reform in Eastern Europe. Owada said Baker also stressed the importance of a strong U.S. partnership with Japan and other countries in the Asia and Pacific region. Owada said he will hold a more detailed meeting on Japan-U.S. relations, China, Kampuchea and other topics with Robert Kimmitt, undersecretary of state for political affairs, on Wednesday.

An election for Japan's House of Representatives is expected to be held on February 18.

Kaifu Warns of Growing Protectionism in West

OW2001055990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0440 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu cautioned Saturday that the West should not forget its own problems in the euphoria of historic changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. "Protectionism is on the rise," Kaifu told an annual national convention of his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

In his first public speech since returning from an 11-day trip to Europe, Kaifu welcomed the decision by countries in Eastern Europe to embark on a path of freedom, democracy, and a free market economy. There is a new world order that promises a brighter and more prosperous society, Kaifu said. "But this does not mean there are no problems facing free societies," Kaifu said. "We have to make an effort to support and strengthen the free trade system," which Kaifu said is being threatened by a growing tendency toward protectionism. Kaifu also pledged to support national self-reliance in agricultural products, a policy Japan's major trading countries have criticized as protectionist.

Chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council Hiroshi Mitsuzuka promised that Japan will make an all-out effort to obtain the understanding of the United States and Europe that agriculture "is fundamental to Japanese culture." Agricultural interests were among the LDP's most reliable supporters until the House of Councillors elections last July, when farmers revolted against the LDP's relaxation of restrictions on some agricultural products. It was the first time the LDP lost its majority in one of the two houses of the Diet, or parliament, since its establishment in 1955.

Kaifu, who is expected to dissolve the House of Representatives next week for a general election in mid-February, told some 2,000 party supporters that the LDP would face some tough challenges this year. "We have overcome crises in the past," he said, calling for party unity and support from young men and women in particular. Kaifu vowed to see through political reforms in time for the 100th anniversary of the Diet in November, and pledged to continue reforms in land policy and education.

Poll Shows Slight Decrease in Support for Kaifu

OW2501020390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0110 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 25 KYODO—The support rate for Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's cabinet stood at 41.9 percent, down slightly from 42.6 percent last month, according to a recent poll published by the YOMIURI SHIMBUN on Thursday. The poll also showed the Kaifu cabinet's nonsupport rate was 38.5 percent, also down from 40.9 percent in the December poll. The poll was conducted on 3,000 eligible voters across the country last Saturday and Sunday just before the House of Representatives was dissolved Wednesday for a general election. The response rate was 73 percent.

By parties, the support rate was 42.7 percent for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, up slightly from 42.2 percent last month, according to the poll. The support rate for the top opposition party, the Japan Socialist Party, fell from 21.0 percent to 18.8 percent, the lowest since last July's House of Councillors election.

Other major opposition parties—Komeito, the Japan Communist Party [JCP] and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP]—saw slight increases in their support rates. The support rate was 3.7 percent for Komeito, up from 3.0 percent, 1.9 percent for the JCP, up from 1.2 percent, and 2.0 percent for the DSP, up from 1.7 percent.

LDP Denies Any Affinity With Socialists

OW2401050890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0443 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 24 KYODO—The choice in a general election expected for mid-February is "between liberalism and socialism," the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] said in a statement marking the dissolution of the House of Representatives on Wednesday. The party said in the statement that the choice the nation makes will also decide between an LDP-led government

or a Japan Socialist Party-initiated coalition government. The statement said the two have no affinity with each other in terms of basic policies.

"Socialist and communist nations around the world are collapsing like an avalanche," it said. The statement said dictatorships and controlled economies can no longer make nations affluent. It said the path of liberalism and democracy trod by Japan had proved correct. It said it would be a return to the past if opposition parties, which it said still have "outdated, inflexible" thoughts of socialist revolution, were allowed to gain power.

"It is only the LDP that is truly a national party, working for the well-being of all Japanese regardless of class and group interests," the statement said. The lower house election is expected for February 18. The official announcement of the election will be made February 3. The statement said the party is determined to tackle issues such as political reform and improve on agricultural, welfare, and land policies.

Survey Shows Gloomy Election Outlook for LDP

OW2001130390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] continues to face "adverse winds" triggered by the Recruit bribery scandal and the unpopular consumption tax in the next general elections scheduled for February, a survey by KYODO NEWS SERVICE showed Saturday. The survey conducted in 130 constituencies nationwide showed that it is inevitable the LDP will lose a sizable number of the seats it had captured in the previous election held in 1986. It is uncertain whether the ruling party will be able to clinch a simple majority of 257 seats in the lower house. The LDP had a landslide win in the simultaneous elections for both houses of the Diet in 1986. The party is expected to field at least 320 candidates in the next lower house election.

The survey showed that it would be difficult for the LDP to retain its seats in 15 constituencies where it had previously made a clean sweep. In contrast, the top opposition party, the Japan Socialist Party, is certain to increase its strength substantially from the current 82 seats. Whether the second largest opposition party Komeito can secure 50 seats remains doubtful because of a series of internal problems.

The Japan Communist Party is expected to suffer from backlash over sweeping changes in East European countries although it aims to win 30 seats. Of 44 candidates to be fielded by the moderate Democratic Socialist Party, only a handful are regarded as potential winners with about 30 hovering on the border line.

LDP Election Platform Reaffirms Rice Policy

OW2001130190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] announced its election platform on Saturday, pledging to defend freedom and the democratic political system. The party described the forthcoming general elections as "the biggest postwar political showdown," and expressed its determination to carry out political reforms, including a comprehensive overhaul of the election system. The party's platform also stressed its decision to use the consumption tax to promote social welfare. The platform reiterated the government's policy of maintaining self-sufficiency in rice supply despite growing external demands for the opening of Japan's agricultural market. The party also said it will provide economic cooperation to East European nations, maintain cooperative relations with Southeast Asian countries, strengthen Japan-U.S. defense cooperation and try to improve Japan-Soviet relations.

Opposition Agrees To Oppose Consumption Tax

OW2301131790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0918 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Four opposition parties agreed on Tuesday to submit bills to scrap the 3 percent consumption tax to a special session of the Diet to be convened after the general election slated for February, a Japan Socialist Party (JSP) official said. Shigeru Ito, chairman of the JSP Policy Board, said the agreement was reached in talks with his counterparts of Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party and the United Social Democratic Party. Ito said the four parties will submit the bills to the Diet in mid-March so the tax can be eliminated beginning September 30.

He said the Diet would have to deliberate a budget bill for fiscal 1990 as an urgent matter shortly after its special session begins following the lower house election. The opposition-dominated House of Councillors passed nine tax bills last December which contained provisions to abolish the consumption tax and other related levies. But the more powerful lower house, controlled by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, scrapped the opposition-backed bills without deliberation due to lack of time shortly afterwards.

Kanemaru Addresses Need for New Minister

OW2101203390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1103 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Gifu, Jan. 21 KYODO—Former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru said Sunday the government should appoint a minister to tackle "nagging" global economic issues if the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) retains power after the upcoming general elections. Kanemaru, a senior leader of the LDP's largest faction, made the proposal in a pep talk to supporters of a

probable LDP candidate for the House of Representatives elections expected on February 18.

"The world is now full of complex problems and I think we should have a foreign minister as well as a cabinet minister without portfolio to take charge of external economic matters," Kanemaru said. "Even if the LDP wins at the polls, nagging foreign economic issues will remain," he said.

Japan has not appointed a minister to take charge of foreign economic affairs since the post was eliminated after the late Nobukiko Ushiba served one year under then Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda in the late 1970s. Kanemaru's proposal apparently stems from widespread concern within the government and the ruling party that Japan's economic conflicts with the United States and other major trading partners will worsen after the elections. Washington has already made it clear that Japan must come up with further market-opening measures by March in the ongoing talks to remove impediments to trade and investment.

Kanemaru did not say who he had in mind for the position but political analysts believe that the LDP is likely to appoint an influential party leader to handle the delicate job if it retains power after the elections. One name touted is former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, who leads a faction of his own within the ruling party. Abe, however, is also known to have ambitions to take over from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu if the party suffers a serious setback in the elections.

Vice Foreign Minister Warns Against Nationalism

OW2201145190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1406 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama said Monday Japan must participate in creating a new international order based on cooperative relations with other countries and warned against a rise of narrow-minded nationalism. "When ideological confrontation ceases to exist, nationalism takes over," Kuriyama said in a lecture in Tokyo.

"The world must avoid giving way to such nationalistic confrontations and strive for creating an order which provides the basis for international cooperation," he said. Kuriyama said close trilateral cooperation between Japan, the United States and European nations held the key to successfully guiding a world, currently undergoing radical changes, toward a new order. He said Japan should take an active role and be prepared to sacrifice itself when necessary in reconstructing the international order.

Outlining what he called the "diplomacy of a humble superpower," Kuriyama said Japan is required to tackle the problems of reshaping East-West relations, incorporating developing nations into the new world order and playing a leading role in such global concerns as environmental protection and drug wars.

Noting that nobody has a blueprint for a global system in the 1990s, Kuriyama predicted that instability will continue for some time while world leaders seek a new order replacing the post World War II political and economic framework. Kuriyama said the wave of democratic reforms sweeping the six East European nations in the latter half of 1989 will have an eventual impact in the Asian region. The moves in Eastern Europe were a reflection of a transition from military to civilian rule and socialist to market economies in the African, Latin American and Middle Eastern nations during the 1980s, he said.

On Japan-Soviet relations, Kuriyama admitted that there has been a change in Soviet diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region, but said there is a lack of any basis for improving bilateral relations, stalled due to disputes over four Soviet-occupied islands off northern Japan.

Nakasone Denies Reports of Trading Scandal

OW1901050990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0258 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on Friday filed a defamation suit against the ASAHI SHIMBUN over reports in the newspaper that he was involved in a stock trading scandal. Nakasone demanded in the suit filed with the Tokyo District Court that the ASAHI publish an apology.

The ASAHI, a national daily, reported in a front-page story on New Year's Day that Nakasone possibly received 120 million yen in political donations through shady stock deals. The ASAHI story said a former aide to Nakasone made 120 million yen in profits from an off-market stock transaction in 1987 in the shares of Kokusai Kogyo, a major Tokyo-based aerial surveying contractor. Nakasone has denied that he was involved in the transaction.

Group Head Denies Involvement in Mayor Shooting

OW2101203090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Nagasaki, Jan. 21 KYODO—The head of a rightist group affiliated with the man who shot Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima in the back last week denied on Sunday that he had anything to do with the attack. "I have never been consulted," said Seishiro Wakashima, head of the Seikijuku Group, in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Police suspect that Kazumi Tajiri, leader of Seikijuku's Tokyo branch, was acting on orders from the rightist group in the shooting last Friday. Tajiri, arrested later that day, has been quoted by police investigators as saying that he launched the attack in revenge for a statement Motoshima made that the late Emperor Hirohito was partly responsible for World War II. Motoshima

was shot in the back at close range in front of Nagasaki City Hall as he stepped into his limousine to go to a medical appointment.

Wakashima said he first learned of the attack after it took place and was surprised by the news. He said he met Tajiri on New Year's Day but no mention was made of the impending attack. The shooting culminated more than a year of harassment and threats against Motoshima from rightist groups following his statement concerning the emperor in December 1988 at the city assembly.

In Tokyo, about 400 people staged a demonstration on Sunday condemning "right-wing terrorism" and called for protection of the freedom of speech. Organizers of the demonstration say they plan to hold similar protest rallies throughout this week.

Meanwhile, police sources in Nagasaki said police have determined that Tajiri made a series of telephone calls during his brief hideout at a local hotel in Nagasaki before being arrested. The sources said police believe that the calls, placed to Tokyo, Osaka and Nagasaki, were made to the various Seikijuku branches located there. Police have also learned that a man describing himself as a Seikijuku member staked out the front of the Nagasaki City Hall earlier this month.

Doctors at the Nagasaki Municipal Public Hospital said Motoshima was recovering steadily and would be able to resume his normal diet Monday.

Lunar Probe Traveling Smoothly Toward Target

OW2501062490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0557 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Uchinoura, Kagoshima Pref., Jan. 25 KYODO—Japan's first lunar probe is sailing smoothly through space and is expected to reach its closest point to the moon on March 19, officials of the Institution of Space and Astronautical Science said Thursday. Thursday morning, the unmanned Muses-A scientific satellite was about 100,000 kilometers away from Earth, officials said. The spacecraft was launched Wednesday night atop an M3S-2 rocket from the space center on Tanegashima Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, southern Japan.

Scientists plan to put Muses-A, weighing 180 kilograms, into an elongated elliptical orbit around Earth which will take it at its closest point to within 18,000 kilometers of the moon on March 19. At that point, Muses-A will launch a 13-kilogram lunar orbiter into orbit around the moon.

Only the United States and the Soviet Union so far have put artificial satellites into lunar orbit.

Relocation of USMC Command Being Considered

OW2201085190 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 22 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Together with the issue of returning Okinawan bases, which is being discussed at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee, the U.S. military authorities are also considering a review of military bases in Okinawa in the context of the overall review of U.S. military capability in the Asian-Pacific region because of the U.S. defense budget cutback. A U.S. military source revealed recently that the following proposals are being considered: 1) The relocation and consolidation of the U.S. Marine Corps [USMC] Okinawa command from the present site at Camp Butler in Kita-Nakagusuku Village to Camp Courtney in Gushikawa City; 2) retrenchment of the northern training ground; and 3) retrenchment of the central training grounds, which include Camp Schwab and Camp Hansen.

If the USMC command is relocated, it will result in the concentration of the nucleus of the USMC in Okinawa in one place.

The command of the 3d Marine Expeditionary Force is located at Camp Courtney, while the command of the administrative unit is at Butler. The office of the Okinawa U.S. Forces coordinator is also located at Camp Butler. Since the commanding officer of the 3d Marine Expeditionary Force, Major General H.C. Stackpole, is concurrently the coordinator, this consolidation is believed to also be desirable from an administrative point of view.

There is a possibility that part of the vacated site after relocation will be returned.

The northern training ground, extending over 8,400 hectares of land in the villages of Kunigami and Higashi, is the largest U.S. military training ground in the prefecture. The rugged undulating topography and the virgin forests in the area closely resemble Southeast Asia and form a superior guerrilla combat training site for the U.S. forces.

At the training grounds at Camp Hansen and Camp Schwab, 5,145 and 2,079 hectares respectively, live ammunition firing exercises using rifles, machine guns, mortars, and howitzers are being held daily. At Camp Hansen, the U.S. military ignored the local residents' opposition in building an urban combat training facility last year. It is said that the return of the Onna communications facility and the Awase Golf Course, which are widely expected to materialize, as well as a review of the military bases. will come not only as a result of the governor's and the prefecture's ardent desire to undertake reorganization and consolidation of the bases, but as a consequence of the growing trend of reviewing U.S. military capability all over the world. This trend has been led by NATO forces as a measure to reduce U.S. budget deficits.

Defense Officials To Visit U.S., Europe

OW1901143890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1329 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Two ranking Japanese defense officials will leave January 28 on a U.S. and European junket of defense and security talks, the Defense Agency said Friday. In Washington, Seiki Nishihiro, vice minister of defense, and Akira Hiyoshi, director general of the Bureau of Defense Policy of the Defense Agency, plan to discuss with their Washington counterparts recent developments in Eastern Europe and how this will effect Asia and the Pacific. They will also exchange opinions with U.S. Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Paul Wolfowitz and Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Henry Rowen about taking on an increased share of the costs of U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Japan.

Nishihiro and Hiyoshi also will meet with State Department officials and hope to discuss arrangements for the pending visit to Japan of Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, scheduled for around February 20.

In Europe, Nishihiro will attend a meeting in Brussels, sponsored by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, of Japanese security officials and defense attaches to get their views of the situation in Eastern Europe. Nishihiro is also scheduling a visit to the Berlin Wall.

U.S. Urges Japan To Further Liberalize Markets

OW2201114190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0941 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—U.S. Treasury officials urged their Japanese counterparts Monday to further liberalize Japan's financial markets, calling for an early lifting of regulations on interest rates, Japanese officials said. In the first working-level talks on finance between the Finance Ministry and the U.S. Treasury, the U.S. delegation hailed progress made so far in easing regulations on interest rates in Japan, but called for speeding up the process, Finance Ministry officials said. The Japanese said liberalization of interest rates has been progressing steadily and pledged to take further steps in line with Japan's domestic circumstances, they said.

The officials said the Japanese explained measures taken so far, including lowering the minimum unit of unregulated large-lot time deposits to 10 million yen last October, and lowering the minimum unit of small-lot money market certificates (mmcs) with market-linked interest to 1 million yen beginning next April. The U.S. also called on the ministry to boost the amount of its outstanding treasury bills in order to make money market instruments more open to foreigners, the officials said. Underlining Japan's efforts to broaden the range of money market tools, the Japanese cited a plan to issue 6 trillion yen in t-bills in fiscal 1990, up from 4 trillion yen in fiscal 1989, they said.

The U.S. also asked for expanding interbank local foreign exchange dealings without short-term money, and the two sides agreed to discuss the issue in the next round of talks. The meeting follows a bilateral agreement last November in Washington to hold working-level consultations on finance to follow up progress made through yen-dollar committee talks between officials of the ministry and the U.S. Treasury.

Toyoda Defends Auto Assembly Plants in U.S.

OW1901123790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japan's voluntary restraint on car exports to the United States is "regrettable," but "inevitable," Shoichiro Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor Corp., said Friday. The comment came during a meeting with the press at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Tokyo, regarding the Japanese Government's decision Wednesday to have the auto industry continue the current "voluntary" curbs on auto exports for another year in fiscal 1990, starting April 1. Japanese automakers currently restrict their exports to the U.S. to 2.3 million cars a year.

"I personally think free competition will bring benefits for consumers in the end," Toyoda said. But Toyoda said the decision had been made in the context of overall trade relations between the U.S. and Japan and that Japanese automakers will therefore follow the decision. He said Japan's exports to the U.S. of finished automobiles have steadily declined and will continue to do so from now on. Output from Japanese-owned auto assembly facilities in the U.S. should not be linked to direct shipments from Japan, since the firms in the U.S. are transplanted into American society and are contributing to prosperity there, Toyoda said.

U.S. auto industry and labor union leaders reacted negatively after the Japanese Government decision to extend the export curbs. Some of their criticism was directed at the number of shipments permitted under the government's guidelines. Critics said the shipments should have been reduced significantly, in view of the growing capacity of Japanese-owned assembly firms in the U.S.

Official Worries About Effect of Soviet Turmoil

OW2201122590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 (KYODO)—A top Foreign Ministry official Monday called the Soviet military crackdown on the nationalist uprising in Azerbaijan "tragic," and expressed his hope that the mounting ethnic turmoil in the Soviet Union will not adversely affect Japan-Soviet negotiations. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed regret at the loss of life over the weekend in the Azerbaijan capital of Baku, but did not explicitly criticize the Soviet decision to intervene with military forces. He said domestic stability in the Soviet

Union and the smooth implementation of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of perestroyka (reform) are vital in facilitating Soviet-Japan talks.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is due to visit Japan next March to carry on regular discussions toward a peace treaty and a solution to a bilateral dispute over four Soviet-occupied islands since the end of World War II. Another ministry official expressed concern that if Gorbachev becomes fully engaged in domestic affairs and his position as leader becomes tenuous, "he may not be able to spare any energy to consider foreign policy toward Japan."

Analysts have commented that the increasing possibility of a breakup of the Soviet Union may make Moscow loath to consider making concessions on the return to Japan of the disputed islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai group.

Businessmen Agree on East European Aid

OW1901144790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1354 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 19 KYODO—Japanese and West German business leaders on Friday agreed on aid to Eastern Europe as it moves toward democratization, a Japanese spokesman said. The agreement came at the 13th Japan-West German businessmen's conference in Tokyo.

German delegates called for aid to Eastern European countries in the form of personnel training and the offering of management know-how. They also welcomed Japanese participation in the projected European bank of reconstruction and development, aimed at financing the rebuilding of Eastern European countries.

The Japanese representatives expressed their readiness to extend active cooperation.

On another matter, the German business executives voiced apprehension about a possible on-going de facto Japanese economic domination in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Japanese participants replied that Japan has no such intention, and welcomed West German investments in the region.

The meeting was attended by 140 business leaders from Japan and West Germany. Among the Japanese delegates were Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and Rokuro Ishikawa, president of the Japan Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The German delegation was led by Hans Peter Stihl, president of the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce.

Japan Plans To Simplify Exports to East Bloc

OW2301093590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Japan plans to simplify procedures necessary for the export of high-technology products to Eastern European nations, such as Poland and Hungary, sources at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Tuesday. Details have yet to be finalized, the sources said.

The government will also discuss with its Western allies measures to relax curbs on the sale of high-technology goods to reform-minded Eastern European nations that are seeking the easing of regulations on such exports under the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom).

"Japan will cooperate with Western countries to ease controls on exports of high-technology goods to the East bloc, with full consideration given the security issues involved," a senior official at the MITI said. The United States has reportedly started consultations with its allies on the issue. Member nations of Cocom will meet in mid-February in Paris to discuss details of easing the Cocom rules. The discussions will probably include a review of a list of items that are currently restricted, and the possibility of naming Poland and Hungary as "exceptional cases" for which regulations will be eased, the sources said.

Trade Talks With South Korea Set for 29-30 Jan

OW2401125590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 24 KYODO—Japan and South Korea will hold a governmental trade conference in Tokyo next Monday and Tuesday, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday. The 22d meeting of the Japan-Korea Trade Conference will be hosted by the Foreign Ministry and participated in by officials from the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Agriculture, and Finance, officials said. The Japanese delegation will be headed by Sakutaro Tanino, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau. His South Korean counterpart will be Son Chon-yong, head of the Foreign Ministry's International Trade Bureau.

Issues to be discussed include the Uruguay round of trade negotiations, regional economic integration, and trade relations with China, Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union. The last conference was held in Seoul in December 1988.

New Group To Promote Investment in PRC

OW2301145090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—A group of about 100 Japanese private enterprises is expected to set up an organization in March to vitalize investment in China, a

senior Japanese Government official said Tuesday. Preparations for the creation of the organization are under way at the initiative of the government, the official said.

The projected body is aimed at invigorating the currently sluggish private-sector Japanese investment in China, and at settling trade troubles between the two countries. The establishment of the organization was agreed on between Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Chinese Premier Li Peng when Li came to Tokyo last April, the official said. However, the Tiananmen incident of military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators occurred immediately before the creation of the organization originally scheduled for June 7, 1989. As a result, the project has been shelved for some months.

With the situation rapidly improving, the Japanese Government is guiding a group of major businesses to set up the projected organization at an early date. Kisaburo Ikeura, chairman of the Industrial Bank of Japan, is the head of a group of sponsors of the organization.

Two Firms To Participate in PRC Steel Venture

OW2301071390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 23 KYODO—Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan said Tuesday they have agreed with Chinese state-run steel enterprises to jointly establish a design engineering company in China's Sichuan Province. The two companies will team up with the Chongqing Iron and Steel Design Institute and the Chongqing Special Steel Plant, both affiliates of the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, to design continuous casting equipment. The Japanese and Chinese sides will each put up half the capital, the amount of which has not been decided yet.

The new company is scheduled to begin operations in May after the signing of an official agreement, which is expected in February, at the earliest. The joint venture came in response to a request by the Chinese Government, which hopes the new equipment will lead to cost reduction in steel production.

Joint-PRC Hotel Project To Begin Mid-March

OW2301131590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Nagoya, Jan. 23 KYODO—Work on a 6-billion-yen Sino-Japanese hotel construction project will begin in mid-March, six months behind schedule due to the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing last June, industry sources said Tuesday. A ground-breaking ceremony will be held on March 18 for the 23-story, 340-room hotel complex to be built in Nanjing, according to Nanjing Grand Hotel Investment Co., a Japanese consortium comprised of major firms based in the Chubu region, central Japan.

The Japanese consortium and the city of Nanjing will evenly split the costs of the project, which has been delayed at the request of the Chinese in the wake of the incident, it said. The Chinese Government gave the green light to the project at the end of last year.

Kotaro Takeda, president of the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, consortium president Hisaya Shiraishi, as well as representatives from Toyota Motor Corp. and Tokai Bank Ltd. will be on hand for the March 18 ceremony, it added.

Envoy Urges Accepting More Filipino Workers

OW1801151690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 18 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Philippine Ambassador to Tokyo Ramon del Rosario proposed Thursday that Japan accept Filipino workers on a quota basis under a bilateral agreement. Japan's private sector is employing many Asian unskilled workers, challenging a government policy not to accept such foreign manual labor, the ambassador said.

"What propels the Filipino, Pakistani or Vietnamese is the yen's fantastic dollar exchange," Del Rosario said in a speech at a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. "There is need on one side and availability on the other side.... The thing is to find a way to bridge them," the envoy said.

"One thing would be a quota system on a bilateral basis between the two nations to legally let migrant workers in Japan," he said. Citing Japan's hiring of Filipino seamen for work on Japanese vessels, he also said "this is the way we seek goals."

Del Rosario said Japanese went to California for a new life and as a child he saw many Japanese workers building plantations in his country. The ambassador also said the Italian Government has legalized 80,000 Filipinos who have overstayed their visas.

"Trying to make a better life is not a criminal offense. It's human nature. He is entitled to humane treatment if his efforts happen to be illegal," Del Rosario said. Japanese immigration authorities say some 41,000 Filipinos were working legally in Japan. The number of such illegal workers is estimated to exceed 100,000, mostly Asians, including Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Chinese.

Police and Japanese human rights groups have reported a number of human rights and labor law abuses by Japanese nightclub or factory employers involving Asian workers used as prostitutes or menial laborers.

Mongolia

Government Pledges Not To Use Force on Movement

HK2501010690 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 25 Jan 90 p 1

[From John Kohut in Ulaanbaatar]

[Text] A senior Mongolian official pledged yesterday that the government would not use military force to put down the country's democratic movement and admitted the ruling socialist party had made mistakes.

"Our government, on our own territory, will never use military force against its own people," said Daskiin Byambasuren, deputy chairman of Mongolia's Council of Ministers.

Mr Byambasuren, speaking to foreign reporters at the Great People's Hural, Mongolia's rubber-stamp parliament, said the government was prepared for a dialogue with the Democratic Mongolian Association (DMA), which has organised four anti-government demonstrations since mid-December.

"We are ready to listen to any proposal aimed at helping our country," he said. "On policies of the development of socialism, there have been some practical mistakes."

Although the DMA has not been formally recognised by the government, the leadership has given it de facto recognition by agreeing to meet its leaders.

"As for the DMA, we consider it a movement born in the process of pluralism in Mongolia," Mr Byambasuren said.

The constitution does not provide for the existence of an opposition to the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

Commentary Denies Ban on Rallies; Notes Dialogue

OW2401114190 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Commentary by MONTSAME observer Shagdar]

[Text] [Announcer] An informal organization, the Mongolian Democratic Union, was set up late last year. So far, it has held four rallies demanding official status and calling for radical reforms to speed up the ongoing process of reconstruction in the country. Regretfully, some foreign radio and news agencies in the recent past spread disinformation, especially regarding the official attitude to these rallies. In this connection, MONTSAME AGENCY observer Shagdar comments now:

[Shagdar, speaking in Mongolian, fading into English translation] In the recent past, foreign media distorted and misinformed the stand of the Mongolian Party and Government towards the Mongolian Democratic Union. Among these media are the Voice of America, REUTER, the NHK of Japan. Apart from them, according to a latest report, BBC, All India Radio, and Radio Australia have also spread similar disinformation, alleging that the Mongolian Government has imposed bans on holding meetings and demonstrations. It is regretful that the Soviet TASS AGENCY has also joined in this chorus of misinformation.

I would like to state unequivocally and make it perfectly clear that the Mongolian Government has not passed any decision which bans any meeting or demonstration. On the contrary, top-level party and government officials have entered into talks and dialogues with the leading members of the newly founded Mongolian Democratic Union.

On January 19th, 1990 the Presidium of the Ulaanbaatar City Hural of People's Deputies—that is, the municipality—passed a temporary directive on holding meetings and rallies in the streets and squares of Ulaanbaatar City. The sixth paragraph of this directive says that it is prohibited to hold meetings and demonstrations on the central Suhbaatar Square, airport, railway terminal, communication and television centers, food and commodity bazaars, and nearby areas under special protection in the country in order to ensure state and public security; create the conditions for organizing ceremonial and gala undertakings; honoring without obstruction international commitments; and to guarantee normal services to the population.

From here, it is quite clear that the ban on holding meetings and rallies applies to only a very few designated places due to evident reasons, but does not in the least apply to holding of any meeting whatsoever. I would like to particularly underline that a misrepresentation of the events in Mongolia is fraught with the danger of misleading the world public. It is therefore appropriate to make an unbiased and factual information without distortion of hard facts of the events taking place late in Mongolia, particularly those that drew a keen interest of the public elsewhere.

Mongolian Democratic Union Holds Fourth Plenum

OW2401011890 Ulaanbaatar International Service in Japanese 1200 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] The Fourth Plenum of the Mongolian Democratic Union [MDU], which has not been officially recognized, was held in Ulaanbaatar. At the session, members of the MDU Organizing Committee pointed out that the union is a [word indistinct] political organization aimed at speeding up domestic social development.

It was also announced at the session that a new union called the Mongolian Union of Democratic and Social Movement had been organized. A declaration by the group to the Mongolian masses was also read at the session.

Democratic Union To Receive Official Recognition

OW2401123690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in Japanese 1200 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Interview with (Sanjatsurungy Doreko), 27-year-old leader of the Mongolian Democratic Union and teacher at Mongolian State University; held in the studio, date not given]

[Summary From Poor Reception] Beginning with an introduction of the Mongolian Democratic Union [MDU], the announcer says: The establishment of the MDU, which has not been officially recognized, was announced to the public in late 1989. The MDU has been engaged in such activities as sponsoring mass meetings and posting propaganda bills. The union, which was established with the slogan of "promoting the reforms carried out in the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR]," has aroused the attention of Mongolia's general public.

In answering the interviewer's first question on what led to the MDU's creation and on the composition of the MDU's membership, (Doreko) says that the MDU was organized in the interests of the general public, with the purpose of promoting reform, and that anyone from any strata of society—irrespective of age—can apply for membership. He adds that young men constitute a large proportion of the membership, because youth is the hope for our future.

In replying to the second question on why the MDU is recognized as a political organization, (Doreko) says: We would like to assess facts and the situation, work out (?appropriate) programs after reaching a correct understanding of these facts, and introduce them to the masses. Our objective is to choose ways to promote these programs through dialogue with other political forces. Above all, the MDU attaches importance to the interests of the people, protects human rights, makes efforts to promote democratization, and will engage in activities conforming to the MPR Constitution.

The announcer then asks: Since the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] has demonstrated at its own party congress and in its activities that it shares the same objective of promoting reforms as your union, is it necessary to create a mass organization?" (Doreko) replies that in Mongolia, there are still remnants of the Stalinist system instituted in the 1930's, and that these remnants must be eliminated.

In concluding the program, the announcer adds: The MDU has submitted an application to the People's Great Hural requesting the right to create a public organization to cooperate with the MPRP in its efforts to promote reforms," and that "in reply, the People's Great Hural has issued an approval on condition that the MDU engages in activities complying with the Constitution in the same way as other public organizations of the MPR."

The announcer also states: The MDU will hold its congress on 18 February, during which the People's Great Hural will recognize its right to engage in activities as an officially approved organization. Since last December, the MDU has held plenums on four occasions, and has conducted dialogue and exchanged views with several Mongolian leaders. Since wrongdoers in some localities have acted under the name of the MDU, dialogues have been held with the leadership to inform the people of the union's true nature.

Tsedenbal Stripped of Youth Union Awards

OW2501111490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] By the decree of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee, former party and state leader of Mongolia Tsedenbal and his wife Tsedenbal Filatova have been stripped of all awards of the Revolutionary Youth Union and the membership cards. The decision was taken in view of the growing demand of Youth Union members, including party chairmen of the Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee apparatus, Youth Union Committee of the October (?District) of Ulaanbaatar, and students of the Mongolian State University.

Prior to that, former Mongolian party and state leader Tsedenbal, who is currently living in Moscow, was deprived of state maintenance, and the staff serving him have been recalled.

Youth Union Calls for Total Charter Renewal

OW2301093990 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The Mongolian Revolutionary Youth Union [MRYL] Committee of Oktyabriyn District in Ulaanbaatar held a meeting on Saturday. There the speakers voiced full support to the processes of reconstruction and renewal in the country pioneered by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and voiced their readiness to work for their implementation. They called on the MRYL Central Committee to convene an extraordinary congress of the union and totally renew its charter. They have also voiced support to some of the tasks advanced by the Mongolian Democratic Union and their preparedness to cooperate with it in their solution.

Media Leaders Meet With Public in Ulaanbaatar

OW2201053290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Executives of Mongolia's mass media have met in Ulaanbaatar the public representatives. They held a heated and open discussion on the place and role of the press in perestroyka. The public representatives raised the issues of interrelationship between the political leadership of the country and the people, readers and the press, information policy under conditions of renewal, consolidation of openness in press, [words indistinct] the relationship between the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the informal organization, the Mongolian Democratic Union, set up late last year.

Daily Notes Necessity of Realizing Open Policy

OW2301193790 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1723 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, Jan. 23 (MONTSAME)—In his article, published in the national daily "UNEN", D. Ankgar, lawyer, notes that in accordance with the

instruction of the 7th Plenum of the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee and together with further development of cooperation with socialist countries it is necessary, not losing time, to develop general principles of world economic relations, render support to joint activities with international organizations, enterprises and firms of foreign countries, start realizing practical measures on expanding foreign economic and trade ties and realize open policy.

The author points out the timeliness and principal significance of announcing open policy for our country which does not have an access to sea, very remote from main world markets and maintains restricted foreign economic ties because of some historical reasons. Our open policy is aimed at developing economic relations with any country in the world on the principles of equality and mutual advantage, perfecting country's economic structure with an account of requirements of world economic links, creating favourable conditions for foreign investments, developing high-technology productions, increasing export sources and thus raising the material welfare of the people, the author points out.

The article deals with the questions of involving foreign capital investments, setting up free economic zones and studying thoroughly the legal regulations connected with this question.

Sodnom Meets USSR's Ryzhkov in Sofia 10 Jan

OW1901195290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The head of the Mongolian delegation at the 45th Council for Mutual Economic Assistance session, Mongolian Prime Minister Sodnom, met with Soviet Prime Minister Ryzhkov on Wednesday in Sofia. During the talk, the sides discussed vital problems of the Mongol-Soviet economic relations. With the aim of raising the efficiency, the prime ministers spoke in favor of accelerated and effective mechanism of trade, economic cooperation between the two countries which would stipulate the use of convertible currency and current world prices in the mutual circulation.

Sodnom and Ryzhkov were unanimous that the realization of offers on reconstruction of the mechanism of the council's work, advanced at the council's session, would contribute to raising the efficiency of bilateral economic ties.

Report on Joint U.S. Oil Prospecting Denied

OW2301123390 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Mongolia imports about a dozen varieties of oil products from the Soviet Union. Despite certain privileges, these imported items are a heavy burden on Mongolia's national economy.

A way out of this situation is to conduct oil prospecting on the Mongolia territory. According to chief geologist of the Ministry of Rural Power Industry and Geology (Sangadel), this will require enormous means, modern technology, and competent experts. The country is not yet able to realize this task on its own. (Sangadel) said that alongside cooperation with the socialist countries, Mongolia does not refuse the services of the developed Western countries. Exchange of views on the issue has already begun. In 1988 working meetings were held with representatives of British and American oil companies who were interested in studying the possibilities of conducting geological and geophysical survey on the basis of the so-called book.

(Sangadel) noted that the meetings were of an initial and acquaintance nature. The dialogue will be continuing. Mongolia is also studying the possibilities of cooperating with the People's Republic of China, said (Sangadel), who denied the report of the Soviet TASS agency correspondent Shakhov on August 19, 1988, which alleged that Mongolian geologists, together with the United States, have started searching for oil in the Mongolian People's Republic.

North Korea

Pyongyang Proposes MAC Meeting for 30 Jan

SK2501103090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—Our side to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] today proposed to the U.S. side to have the 454th MAC meeting at 11:00 on January 30, 1990.

U.S., South Denounced for Military Exercise

SK2501151990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are creating a fearful atmosphere of war all over South Korea, hysterically staging various military exercises under various labels as part of the aggressive "Team Spirit 90" joint manoeuvres, according to military sources.

On January 24, the U.S. imperialists brought formations of "A-4" assault planes to South Korea from their overseas aggressive base in the Pacific to stage a malicious exercise of "strike at ground targets" in the Northern half of the DPRK "in case of emergency" in coordination with "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to their aggressive airforce present in South Korea, thus inciting the war fever.

And, on January 25, they brought formations of "C-130" transport planes from their bases of aggression in the Pacific and staged a frantic aerial warfare exercise for swiftly airlifting their aggression forces and war materials to the operational zone from their overseas aggression bases in Japan, the Philippines and other places.

Earlier, on January 23, the South Korean puppets whipped up war hysterics by staging repeatedly surprise strike exercises aimed at invasion of the North with the mobilisation of a total of more than 40 "F-4," "F-5" and "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to their airforce.

The reckless war games staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets in a planned manner against our republic glaringly expose that they, in actuality, do not want dialogue and reunification, but continue pursuing invasion of the North, though they are loud-mouthed about "relaxation of tensions" on the Korean peninsula and "confidence-building."

U.S. Assailed for 'Team Spirit' Aerial Exercise

SK2401153790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1521 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists brought formations of assault planes into South Korea from their overseas aggression base in Japan and let them fly in a premeditated way in the sky above the area near the Military Demarcation Line from January 20 to stage provocative aerial war exercises aiming at surprise attack on major targets in the Northern half of Korea under the plan of the criminal "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises, according to military sources.

And they dispatched today formations of "C-130" transport planes carrying a large number of troops and combat equipment into the sky above the operational area of South Korea from their overseas aggression base in the Pacific and staged frenzied air dropping exercises in an area similar to the terrain of the Northern half of Korea for the purpose of promptly airlifting aggression forces to an operational area in case of "emergency".

They mobilized scores of fighter planes of various types including "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to the Seventh Air Force of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces stationed in South Korea from January 23 to frantically launch joint air strike exercises in coordinated operation with ground units.

The number of planes involved in aerial exercises in the sky above South Korea on January 23 alone totalled 440.

This shows that the U.S. imperialists are making frantic efforts to increase the danger of a war of aggression on the Korean peninsula.

Koreans in Japan Want 'Team Spirit' Cancelled

SK2501101690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo January 24 (KNS-KCNA)—We strongly demand that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique immediately cancel the reckless plan of the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises and respond to the proposal for a North-South negotiation to pull down the concrete wall of division without delay and realize free travel and complete opening between the North and the South, said the central standing committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) in a statement January 24.

It noted:

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique scheme to stage the large-scale "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises this year, defying the strong opposition of the home and foreign public opinion. This is a downright challenge to the entire Korean people and the world peace-loving people who desire the relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula and its reunification.

Their plan to stage the extremely aggressive and provocative military exercises against the DPRK is a reckless scheme of military confrontation to put a spoke in the wheel of North-South dialogue and block the relaxation of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The Koreans in Japan can hardly repress bitter national resentment at the heinous war moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique to aggravate confrontation between the North and the South and impose a holocaust of nuclear war on their homeland. The central standing committee of Chongnyon sternly denounces the criminal "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises in the name of the entire Koreans in Japan who aspire after peace of the homeland and its peaceful reunification.

Editorial Demands U.S. Leave Philippines

SK2401055490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0527 GMT 24 Jan 90

["Two Contradictory Stands"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—The Soviet Union took a measure for withdrawing its military forces from Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, and withdrew some of the armed forces from there at the end of last year, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary. The commentary demands that the United States, too, withdraw its armed forces from the Asia-Pacific.

The measure of the Soviet Union, conforming to the trend of the times towards detente, contributes to accelerating global detente process, easing military tension in the Asia-Pacific and creating an atmosphere of mutual trust in particular, the commentary points out, and goes on:

If the question of stopping arms race, realising disarmament and pulling foreign forces out of all parts of the world is to be settled successfully, it is impossible to do so by the efforts of any one side only and there must be practical response between the parties concerned.

The United States has used the presence of the Soviet Armed Forces in Cam Ranh Bay as a pretext to maintain its military presence in the Philippines. Now that the

Soviet Union has begun to withdraw its forces from Cam Ranh Bay, the United States should take a corresponding step.

But the U.S. authorities openly suggested that they would not do so. The deputy assistant to the U.S. President for national security, answering the question put by a reporter, said that the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Viet Nam would not affect the future of the U.S. base in the Philippines. This stand of the United States cannot be construed otherwise than an unreasonable act of going against the international relations of faith and an attempt to unilaterally gain the superiority of strength.

The United States should not make an empty talk about "peace" and "detente" but take a step for cutting its arms and withdrawing its armed forces from the territories of other countries to show faith to the people of the world.

The United States has no ground or pretext whatsoever to keep its armed forces and nuclear weapons in South Korea any longer and should immediately take a measure for withdrawing them.

Kim Yong-nam Speaks at Vietnamese Party

SK2401061090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—Nguyen Van Trong, Vietnamese ambassador to Korea, hosted a cocktail party at his embassy on January 23 on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Vietnam.

Ambassador Nguyen Van Trong said that the Vietnamese and Korean peoples have cooperated with and supported each other over the past four decades in accomplishing the common cause of socialist construction, national reunification and social progress.

Stating that the Vietnamese people value friendship and solidarity with the fraternal Korean people, he said they will make every effort possible to strengthen and develop these relations.

The Vietnamese party, government and people invariably support the revolutionary cause of the fraternal Korean people, he declared, and stressed: they support the new proposals put forward by comrade President Kim Il-song in his new year address for the reunificatiox of the country.

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam in his speech said that the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Vietnam reflected the unshakable will of the governments and peoples of the two countries to strengthen and develop the bonds of friendship, solidarity and cooperation on the road of accomplishing the common cause.

Noting that the friendly relations between Korea and Vietnam are developing very favourably these days, he expressed the belief that these relations would be consolidated and developed for the realization of the cause of socialism and the interests of the two peoples.

He said:

We rejoice over the great achievements made by the Vietnamese people under the leadership of the communist party in the fulfilment of the "three economic plans" set forth by the sixth congress of the party and wish the Vietnamese people greater victory in their endeavours to strengthen the unity of the party and uphold the cause of socialism, true to the will of Comrade Ho Chi Minh.

DPRK-CSSR Protocol Signed in Pyongyang

SK2201232790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 22 (KCNA)—A protocol on commodity delivery and payments for 1990 between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Czechoslovakia was signed in Pyongyang Monday.

Foreign Envoys Want 'Concrete Wall' Torn Down

SK2501102290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—Foreign diplomatic envoys and embassy officials in Pyongyang saw Monday the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line by the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets.

Looking at the wall bisecting the country and the nation, they expressed the belief that the wall of division would be pulled down in a short time and the reunification of Korea be realized without fail.

Moustapha Saphariny, ambassador of the State of Palestine, said:

The concrete wall has brought unbearable sufferings of division to the Korean people. The very one responsible for these sufferings is the U.S. imperialists occupying South Korea.

Nigerian Ambassador Salau Adeku Lawal said: It is a tragedy that one territory and one nation have been kept divided for 40 odd years. The new reunification proposal to destroy the concrete wall and ensure free travel and a full-scale open door is a very just one.

Asharif G. Alkalbash [name as received], secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of Libya, said: Seeing the concrete wall at first hand, I have clearly realized that the South Korean authorities tell a lie when they say there is no wall. Korea has not yet been reunified because the U.S. forces are present in South Korea.

Zhang Yuanwei, counsellor of the Chinese Embassy, said:

The concrete wall was built deliberately by the South Korean authorities to block the reunification of Korea. Only when it is destroyed first can divided Korea be reunified.

Cuban Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega said:

No Tae-u and Western news agencies continue to shamelessly claim that there is no concrete wall in the area of the South side. But everyone who comes here will admit that there is the concrete wall.

The U.S. imperialists who have artificially divided one Korea and one nation must get out of South Korea at once and they and the South Korean authorities must pull down the concrete wall at an early date.

NODONG SINMUN Views Removal of 'Wall'

SK2201113790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article titled "To Remove the Barrier of Division is Demand of Nation and Times."

Soon after our new save-the-nation proposal to remove the barrier of division and realise free travel and a full-scale open door between the North and the South was made public, the South Korean rulers are craftily scheming to keep the concrete wall by spreading a lie that there is no wall, the article says, and goes on:

No Tae-u at the "New Year press conference" said not a word about removing the concrete wall and let his underlings assert that there is no concrete wall and it is only an anti-tank block.

It is sheer nonsense because the concrete wall of the South side is visible from any place near the Military Demarcation Line.

The concrete wall in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line stretches from the East to the West. It is 10-19 metres wide at the bottom, 3-7 metres wide on the top and 5-8 metres high.

Whatever trick the South Korean rulers may play, they can neither hide the existing barrier, nor conceal the purpose sought in the construction of the barrier for permanent division and confrontation.

The removal of the concrete wall in the area south of the MDL is the demand, which brooks no delay in view of the ardent desire of the entire nation for reunification.

Lurking behind the concrete wall is the criminal attempt of the U.S. imperialists to create "two Koreas" for their permanent occupation of South Korea and of the South Korean rulers fawning upon them to remain in power.

As long as this barrier of division is kept, it is impossible to expect any success in the North-South dialogue, still less national reconciliation and unity and opening of the door of reunification through free travel and a full-scale open door.

Today our nation, whether they may live in the North, or the South or abroad, are burning with one desire to reunify the country.

This trend can no longer be checked.

To pull down the concrete wall is the demand of the times, too. Our times are an era of chajusong and for the oppressed and ill-treated people to aspire after independence and sovereignty is the main trend of our times.

The struggle of our people for the country's reunification is a just struggle joining the main trend of the world.

We should pull down the barrier of division and achieve the country's reunification at any cost so as to establish national sovereignty nation-wide and build a prosperous reunified country.

Now that the South Korean rulers claimed for "openness" and "reunification" and welcomed the opening of the barrier in another country, they are playing tricks to keep their concrete wall. This is an unpardonable anti-national criminal act.

The South Korean rulers must unconditionally pull down the barrier of division by themselves.

Development of South-South Cooperation Stressed

SK2401103190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article titled "The Way for Developing Countries to Realize Complete Sovereignty and Independence", a summary of which reads:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught in his New Year address:

"The way for the developing countries to realize complete sovereignty and independence from neo-colonialist yoke is to strengthen unity and cooperation on the principle of collective self-reliance".

The imperialists are stepping up their open aggression on the anti-imperialist and independent developing countries and resorting to base tricks to isolate and weaken them.

To check and frustrate the aggression and intervention of the U.S.-led imperialists and to cast off their neo-colonialist domination and yoke is an urgent and important task facing the developing countries at present.

If the developing countries are to achieve complete sovereignty and independence, delivering themselves out of today's difficult position, they must not fail to get

rid of economic dependence and, to this end, they must build an independent national economy.

The way for the developing countries to achieve economic independence is to develop South-South cooperation based on the principle of collective self-reliance.

South-South cooperation fully accords with the purpose and demand of the developing countries and it is a most reasonable and realistic way for economic independence and the establishment of a new international economic order.

In expanding and developing South-South cooperation in all fields it is important for the developing countries to strictly abide by the principle of collective self-reliance and the principle of complete equality and mutual benefit, while adhering to chajusong.

Only when they adhere to the principle of collective self-reliance can they discard propensity to dependence on the developed countries and develop South-South cooperation by mobilizing every possibility they can afford.

If the developing countries help each other disinterestedly, irrespective of the size of the country and the level of economic and cultural progress and develop economic and technical cooperation from the stand of promoting mutual interest, the scope of South-South cooperation will further expand and greatly pay off.

Commentary Scores Labor Ministry Statement

SK2101093190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0842 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet Labor Minister January 19 stated that something like "basic principle" would be decided upon within this month, the keynote of which would be "stringent measures" against labor disputes of workers based on the traitor No Tae-u's address at "the New Year press conference."

Commenting on this, MINJU CHOSON says this vividly reveals the attempt to suppress and stifle at the point of the bayonet the righteous struggle of South Korean workers for the right to live and democratic freedom by labelling it as "illegal" and "violent" acts.

It is not "an illegal act" for the South Korean workers to rise up in struggle in demand of wage hike, better working conditions and guarantee of three rights of labor, declares the news analyst, and continues:

The attempts of the No Tae-u group to put down the legitimate struggle of workers at the point of the bayonet, incriminating it, are savage arbitrariness proper to fascist tyrants who have learned nothing but sword-brandishing.

Dismayed at the massive struggle of workers which shows signs of a rising tide in the new year, the No Tae-u group is going to block their righteous action with the bayonet by branding it as an "illegal" and "violent" act in a desperate bid to prop up the tottering colonial fascist rule.

SKNDF Mission in Cuba Denounces No Address

SK2401051290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—Yi Sang-chol, chief of the mission of the "South Korean National Democratic Front" [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) in Cuba, when he was interviewed by a PRENSA LATINA [name of paper as received] reporter on January 19, denounced the traitor No Tae-u's address at the "new year press conference", charging that although the traitor "welcomed" free travel and a full-scale open door he, in actuality, refuses to accept the proposal for them, according to a report.

This is evidenced by the fact that the U.S. imperialists and the traitor No Tae-u, keeping mum about the matter of demolishing the concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line, deny its existence and block free travel and a complete opening between the North and the South and refuse to stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, nuclear war exercises for invading the northern half of Korea.

Condemning this behaviour of the traitor No as the move to create "two Koreas," he stated that the traitor should not talk about reunification only but show its sincerity in deed.

Pointing to No Tae-u's utterances about the reorganization of political circles at "the conference", he stated that it is aimed at forming a "conservative coalition" to intensify the suppression of people.

Slogans Found Hailing Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il

SK2501105090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—Scientists of the Revolutionary Relics Preservation Institute of the Hamhung branch under the Academy of Sciences of the DPRK contributed to discovering slogans which were written on trees during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle by succeeding in studying and developing a new fluoroscopy and exposure reagent.

Since May, 1987, they have tested more than 500,000 barked trees across the country and discovered more than 9,000 slogans.

They built up outdoor orthoptic facilities in many areas for the convenience of visitors and took measures for preserving newly-discovered revolutionary relics and remains on a scientific and technical basis.

The above-said success was made under the meticulous guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The party indicated the concrete orientation and ways of extensively discovering slogans dating back to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the eternal treasure of the Korean revolution.

Scientists, pooling their wisdom, invented and made photographing devices and a new reagent with which to test the trees barked during the period from the latter half of the 1930s to the first half of the 1940s.

They have since found a large number of slogans in the northern region of Korea and many other areas, centering on Mt. Paektu. Among them are slogans highly praising the great leader General Kim Il-song, dear Comrade Kim Chong-il and Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, reflecting the 10-point programme of the association for the restoration of the fatherland and calling the entire people to the final anti-Japanese war.

They also set up uptodate orthoptic devices that help visitors read faded letters on trees.

After their tireless research they succeeded in producing an exposure reagent which makes slogans readable in the open air.

Thousands of slogans were discovered by the exposing method in the last one year and they are found in 10 provinces (municipalities).

Kang Song-san, Officials Present at Meetings

SK2101115990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Mass meetings have been held in various places to implement the militant tasks which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song presented in his New Year address and the decisions at the 17th Plenary Session of the 6th Party Central Committee.

Present at the 19 January North Hamgyong provincial mass meeting were Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee Political Bureau, responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee, and chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee, and responsible officials of the local party and executive institutions, administrative and economic institutions, and labor organizations and their workers. [passage omitted]

Present at the North Pyongan provincial mass meeting were Comrade Cho Se-ung, candidate member of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee Political Bureau, responsible secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial Party Committee, and chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee, and responsible officials of the local party and executive institutions, administrative and economic institutions, and labor organizations and their workers. [passage omitted]

Present at the South Hwanghae provincial mass meeting were Kim Hak-pong, responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee, and other responsible officials of the local party and executive institutions, administrative and economic institutions, and labor organizations and their workers. [passage omitted]

Spirit of 'Grand Upsurge of Chollima' Stressed

SK2301102790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 23 (KCNA)—The present reality requires officials and working people to brace themselves up in a revolutionary way and wage a staunch struggle. Let us live and work in the spirit, the stamina of the great upsurge of chollima after the war. This is a militant slogan we must hold aloft.

NODONG SINMUN today editorially stresses this.

The revolutionary spirit and the fighting trait of the working people is a powerful motive force in socialist construction, the editorial says and goes on:

The fighting spirit and trait displayed by our working class and people during the grand upsurge of chollima should remain a valuable spirit and trait even today.

They are the staunch fighting spirit and trait with which the heroic Korean people showed their mettle by effecting great upswing in socialist construction, rallied firm behind the party and the leader under the rigorous circumstance in which everything was reduced to ashes and the moves of the enemy within and without were intensified.

When we accelerate production and construction in the same spirit and mettle as were displayed during the great upsurge of chollima, nothing is impossible to us and there can be no goal we cannot attain.

We must take the demand of the party and the revolution as that of our own life and struggle and live and work in the same spirit and mettle as were fully displayed in the postwar period of great upsurge of chollima.

We should tap and utilize the assets to the maximum and effect a great upsurge by our own efforts, cherishing the spirit of the slogan "Let us make the already laid economic foundations pay off through increased production and economy!" Set forth at the recent 17th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Looking back upon the days when the whole party and the entire people turned out in response to the decisions of the historical December, 1956, plenary meeting of the party Central Committee to tap inner reserves and vigorously struggle for economy, we must wage a drive

for more increased production and economy with the same stance and attitude and by the same methods of work.

The editorial calls upon all the functionaries and working people to fully display the trait of boldly thinking and acting like in the period of great upsurge of chollima and thus create a new "speed of the '90s."

It stresses:

To stand on one's own feet and advance under whatever difficult circumstances is the noble revolutionary spirit displayed to the full during the period of great upsurge of chollima.

We must always cherish the spirit with which the party and the people formed the integrated whole, the party believing in the people and the people following the party in the rigorous postwar period, to overcome the ordeals of the revolution by their own efforts and hasten socialist construction along the road indicated by chuche, and fully display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance as the revolution advances.

Rallies Held To Fulfill Tasks Set at New Year

SK2401060090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—A wave of mass rallies is sweeping the country to fulfil the tasks set in the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the decisions of the 17th plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The participants of the North Pyongan Provincial mass rally resolved to quickly finish the remaining part of the expansion project of the staple fibre production capacity of the sinuiju chemical Fibre Complex, complete the first- stage project of the water channel of the Taechon Power Station by mid-April and energetically accelerate the construction of unit no. 5 of the Taechon Power Station and minor power stations to complete them in a short time.

They also vowed to complete flats for 3,500 families in Namsinuiju, flats for 6,000 families in cities and counties of the province and support the construction of flats for 50,000 families in Pyongyang in material and workforce.

The participants of a mass rally in Nampo municipality resolved to complete in a short period the construction of a two million-ton capacity steel works, the December thermal power plant and the Nampo thermal power plant by concentrating efforts on capital construction.

They called on the Taean Heavy Machine Complex to produce 75 and 210 ton boilers and generating equipment intended for the construction of thermal power plants and supply ordered equipment for capital construction in good time. The participants of the mass rallies held in Kangwon and Chagang Provinces vowed to successfully carry out vast tasks confronting the provinces by launching a vigorous drive for the creation of the "speed of the '90s".

Details of Youth Shock Brigade Meeting Reported

SK2401054690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0523 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 24 (KCNA)—A meeting of activists of the speed campaign youth shock brigade was held here Tuesday. Discussed at the meeting was the question of powerfully rousing the youth shock brigaders in the general onward movement in the 1990s in hearty response to the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the resolution of the 17th plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The speed campaign youth shock brigade is a unit which makes a breakthrough of an advance by taking the van in difficult and toilsome work of socialist construction and a school which brings up young people to be reliable heirs to the revolution in the practical struggle of socialist construction.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, penetrating into the position and role of the youth in accomplishing the cause of modelling the whole of society on the Chuche idea 15 years ago, saw to it that the youth shock brigade was formed in keeping with the developing reality and named it the speed campaign youth shock brigade.

The brigade has erected grand monumental edifices of eternal value by fully displaying unparalleled devotion and mass heroism everywhere in the country.

Among them are over 150 projects including revolutionary battle sites such as those in Mt. Wangjae and at Lake Samji, railway electrification in ten odd sections and construction of new railway lines.

Choe Kwang Delivers Address at Pyongyang Meeting

SK2201233190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 22 (KCNA)—A central meeting was held today at the People's Palace of Culture to mark the 65th anniversary of the "one thousand-ri journey for national liberation" made by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The meeting was attended by Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, and other senior officials.

A report was made by Choe Kwang, alternate member of the political bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army.

The reporter said it was a significant event in shaping the prospect of the Korean revolution and the future of our

nation that Comrade Kim Il-song left Mangyongdae on January 22, 1925, to make the "one thousand-ri journey for national liberation" with grand aspirations for the liberation of the country and revolution in his teenage.

He made the journey with a firm pledge to return home only after liberating the country, keenly feeling the sorrow of a ruined nation at a time when the Japanese imperialist colonial fascist rule over Korea reached the culminating point in the middle of the 1920s.

Comrade Kim Il-song said, looking back upon those days:

"I crossed the Amnok-Gang River when I was 13, firmly determined not to return before Korea became independent. Young as I was, I could not repress my sorrow as I sang the song of the Amnok-Gang River written by someone and wondered when I would be able to tread this land again, when I would return to this land where I had grown up and where there were our forefathers' graves."

Following the journey he indicated a scientific line of the Korean revolution on the basis of the chuche idea, paving the way of revolution quite different from the preceding nationalist movement and the early communist movement and led the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle to victory and accomplished the cause of national liberation. The reporter said the whole course of our people's long- drawn-out struggle for independence, sovereignty and socialism is a history of application of the chuche idea founded by President Kim Il-song and a history of its brilliant triumph.

As we have advanced along the road of the revolution started by President Kim Il-song the cause of national and class liberation has been successfully accomplished in our country, and solid political and ideological basis and material foundations for carrying the cause of chajusong for the masses of the people through to accomplishment have been laid, he noted.

Pointing out that the "one thousand-ri journey for national liberation" is today linked with the road of a grand march for the accomplishment of the cause of chuche under the outstanding leadership of our party, he stressed:

It is because our party has never backed from the road it decided and chose to take but maintained the stand of chuche with fortitude and because our people have reposed unquestioned trust in the party and the leader and devotedly implemented the line and policies set out by the party and the leader that our revolution has advanced along a straight road of victory without frustration or retreat while going through countless grim trials of history.

Our party which has grown from the deep historical roots of the anti-Japanese struggle and has long traditions of struggle has steadfastly adhered to the revolutionary stand and independent line in all its activities and thus paved the way of struggle victoriously without the slightest deviations, turns and twists even under the most difficult conditions and confidently promoted our people's cause of chajusong, winning their unquestioned trust with its shining exploits in struggle.

The party and the leader believe in the people, and the people trust and follow the party and the leader, and the leader, the party and the masses form an integrated whole and wage the struggle together. Herein lie the source of our inexhaustible strength and the key to the victory of the revolution, said the reporter.

He stressed the need to further consolidate and develop our socialist system, build a socialist paradise in this land where the people enjoy an independent and creative life to their heart's content and put an end to the tragic history of territorial partition and national division in the 1990s on the road of the revolution started by President Kim Il-song.

South Korea

Paper Shows Picture of North Armistice Violation

SK2101010290

[Editorial Report] The Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English in its 21 January 1990 Edition on page 3 carries a photograph showing a wire fence on a snowy hillside with power poles visible behind the fence. The picture carries the following caption:

"The picture shows high-voltage electric fences put up by North Korean troops in the northern sector of the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ]. The fences are a clear violation of the Armistice Agreement. North Korea has constructed a large number of fences, land-mine fields, anti-tank obstacles and concrete fortresses north of the Military Demarcation Line, which stretches through the heart of the 4-kilometer-wide, 248- kilometer-long DMZ."

North Emergency Meeting of Envoys Thought Ended

SK2101012290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] North Korea seems to have ended a meeting of its diplomatic envoys abroad as some of them have been spotted back at their posts, a government source said yesterday.

Pyongyang suddenly recalled its ambassadors in 30 countries last December for a meeting, a move seen by Western observers as aimed at discussing ways to deal with the turbulent situation in Eastern Europe, especially the fall of Romanian President Ceausescu.

The source said the Pyongyang government seems to have advanced the schedule of the annual meeting of its ambassadors, usually held in January, in the wake of developments in Eastern Europe.

Hong Kong Paper Quoted on North Opening Up

SK2001015290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] North Korea, whose foreign debt amounts to about 4.5 billion dollars, has been in economic crisis since its Communist friends including the Soviet Union and China cut off their aid after waves of reforms swept them, said YONHAP news agency quoting a Hong Kong newspaper yesterday.

The SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST reported yesterday that North Korea is planning air routes linking Hong Kong and Japan to Pyongyang to induce investments from foreign countries such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia in an effort to save its economy.

Yim Pyong-hong who introduced himself as a person in charge of an institute studying arms reduction and peace in North Korea was quoted as saying that the country is open to capitalist nations.

The daily also reported that the country seems to be opening its door little by little perhaps forced to do so only for economic purposes.

In the meantime, foreign businessmen reportedly discussed with North Korean officials various joint projects such as opening the service of passenger liners between Pyongyang and Japan, import of North Korean coal and use of its cheap labor force.

Government Approves North Contact on Cycling

SK2401104890 Seoul YONHAP in English 1030 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 24 (YONHAP)—The president-publisher of a leading vernacular paper here was officially allowed Wednesday to contact with North Korean officials in connection with a cycling competition to be sponsored by the daily.

The South Korean Government permitted Kim Pyong-kwan of TONG-A ILBO to contact the North Korean Cycling Association for discussing the daily's plan to extend the race track of the 23rd TONG-A cycling competition to the North Korean capital city of Pyongyang.

Kim is to send a letter through the Japanese cycling association to Yi Sang-pyok, chairman of the (North) Korean Cycling Association to express his willingness to visit North Korea to discuss the matter and make a preparatory survey on the road leading to Pyongyang.

TONG-A plans to stretch the race track of the cycling competition, slated to be held in coming April, across the Demilitarized Zone out to Pyongyang through North Korean southernmost city of Kaesong near the truce village of Panmunjom.

Government, U.S. Agree on Present Force Levels

SK2301132390 Seoul YONHAP in English 1309 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—South Korean and U.S. officials agreed at the working-level Korea-U.S. defense talks in Hawaii last week that the U.S. troops in Korea should maintain their war deterrent at the present level, a Defense Ministry source said Tuesday.

The source said the two sides have the same view that despite recent changes in Europe, tensions on the Korean peninsula are not being eased because military threats from North Korea continue, and that the security situation in northeast Asia has not been improved consequently.

Both sides also acknowledged that it is necessary to abide by the firm Korea-U.S. defense commitment until the security situation in this part of the world is definitely improved.

At the talks, arranged as preparatory step for the visit to Seoul by U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheny on Feb. 14-17, Defense and Foreign Affairs officials from Seoul and Washington discussed security cooperation issues, including a more appropriate sharing of defense expenditures for U.S. troops stationed in Korea, reduction of U.S. soldiers here and rearrangement of commanding system of the combined ROK-U.S. Forces.

The source said that the two sides agreed the sharing of the cited expenditures be suitable to each other's capability.

They also agreed to keep studying and discussing the issues involving the commanding system, such as expanded roles of the Korean members on a step by step basis in accordance with the changing situation on the peninsula.

Volcker Tells Koreans 'Economy Will Expand'

SK2301061290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0540 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—Chinese leaders appear to want to expand relations with South Korea through merchandise trade and direct South Korean investment, Paul Volcker, former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, said Monday.

The Chinese were eager for Korean investment and goods and expressed a strong willingness to continue to expand direct and indirect relations with South Korea, Volcker, here as a guest of the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), told some 80 Korean businessmen over lunch at FKI headquarters.

Korea's economic growth rate of 6.5 percent is solid and the economy will expand rapidly in the near future despite difficulties in recent months, Volcker said.

Sweeping changes in Eastern Europe and China will not have a strong influence on the world economy, but will powerfully alter international politics by the end of the century, he predicted.

Changes in Eastern Europe are different from those in China because the Europeans are aiming at rapid change toward a market economy, scrapping their socialist system, he said.

Facing setbacks such as rising unemployment rates, they need the West's technical and financial support.

Chinese leaders know that it is very difficult to maintain a one-party system and stimulate the economy simultaneously, and so they will pursue more smooth and cautious change, Volcker said.

Change in the Soviet Union in the long run, although at a slow tempo because of its large scale, will be optimistic for the its economy, he predicted.

Group To Lobby U.S. Farmers for 'Understanding'

SK2001025490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—The National Livestock Cooperatives Federation will lobby U.S. trade officials and farmers in an effort to ease pressure from the United States and other exporters of livestock products, federation president Myong Yi-sik said Friday.

In a briefing to Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kim Sik, Myong said the federation is seeking meetings with U.S. trade officials and stockbreeders to explain the situation of the Korean livestock industry and to ask their understanding of the import quota system.

To prepare for import liberalization, the federation will develop the ability to produce high-quality meats and take steps to expand demand for Korean beef, Myong said.

Korea-U.S. beef talks in Seoul on Jan. 11 broke down without any agreement as the United States urged Korea to present a timetable for liberalizing imports while Korea insisted on maintaining its import quota system.

U.S.-Korean Telecommunications Talks Conclude

SK2401065890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0637 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 24 (YONHAP)—Talks between South Korea and the United States on opening up the Korean telecommunications market ended Monday without having made any progress, Communications Ministry officials said Wednesday.

During four days of talks in Hawaii from Jan. 19, the United States protested against Korea's overall plans on the issue, including the categories and timing for service market opening, conditions for access to the market and measures to guarantee open competition, according to the officials.

U.S. officials called for reaching an agreement by the end of next month, before the Uruguay Round mulilateral conference comes to a conclusion late this year.

In response, Korean officials said it cannot accept the "excessive" U.S. demands and insisted on discussing the issue at the Uruguay Round conference.

The Korean-side had made efforts to produce an agreement in the talks because Washington has designated Korea a priority foreign country for alleged unfair trade with the United States and the deadline for negotiation is Feb. 23.

Soviet Economist Views Cooperation With Korea

SK2401022290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 24 (YONHAP)—A senior Soviet economist has advocated a new form of cooperation between Seoul and Moscow in which South Korean manufacturers use Soviet technology.

"It is necessary for the two countries to develop a new relationship to invigorate bilateral economic cooperation, although the pattern of combining raw materials abundant in the Soviet Union with South Korean investment is an effective way," said Vasily Mikheev [spelling of name as received], deputy director of the institute for Economics of the World Socialist System's Asian Department.

Mikheev noted that the Soviet Union has a record of high academic achievements in basic sciences, such as biotechnology, genetic and aerospace engineering, but had difficulty producing merchandise on a commercial scale due to the lack of a market economic system.

In a lecture here Tuesday on the development of economic relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union, he said Korea, which has had little time to develop such sciences, could benefit from the new pattern of cooperation since it would improve export performance.

The Soviet economist, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, arrived in Seoul on Jan. 17 for a week-long visit as a guest of Korean academic bodies.

Economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and North Korea has bogged down since Moscow began to revise its economic system, and Pyongyang has been intensifying its own collective economic system amid on-going reforms in Eastern Europe, Mikheev said.

He advised South Korean businesses to improve the investment environment in the Soviet Union by investing in infrastructure along with industrialized nations, including the United States and Japan.

Envoy Claims South Role in East Bloc Reforms

SK2501031090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Ambassador at large Hong Sun-yong, who has pioneered Korea's bold policy of rapprochement with socialist countries, has returned home from a fresh round of contacts with East Europeans who are now in a transit to democracy. He initialled a protocol on diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia in Prague last week.

He maintained that capitalist South Korea has played a role in helping expedite East European reforms, contrary to the general notion that its diplomatic relations with the socialist nations are simply the outcome of their changes.

"Some say that our policy of appeasement with socialist countries has been boosted by a wave of reforms now sweeping the East. It sounds rational in a sense. But in actuality, our aggressive overtures towards them, based on the success of a free market economy, partly accelerated its changes.

"East European countries are now undergoing vigorous reforms, political, economic, social and in general. They have set up diplomatic ties with us or are moving to do so, prompting the removal of the East-West division," he told THE KOREA TIMES.

"But just a year ago, the situation had been totally, or almost totally different from now as we all know," he said, recollecting bottlenecks he often ran into in his negotiations with East bloc nations on diplomatic links.

"It is quite fortunate not only for us but for them that ideological barriers were broken first with Hungary one and a half years ago and permanent missions were established in Budapest and Seoul," he viewed.

He did not hesitate in making a forecast that the Soviet Union would comply with Seoul's persistent efforts for full diplomatic links in two years.

"It was no surprise that Seoul and Moscow agreed to exchange consular offices, though on limited terms, towards the end of last year. It was made possible by ceaseless negotiations on grounds of bilateral economic ties with the two-way trade volume growing rapidly between the largest socialist economy and the free world's 10th largest trader.

"It is a natural course that a sovereign state like South Korea establishes diplomatic relations with all other nations around the world," he declared, also forecasting that China, Seoul's largest market in the socialist bloc, would follow in the step of the Soviet Union in three to five years.

Optimistic about the future of Korea's diplomatic arena, he added that East Germany and Romania would approach Seoul for full diplomatic ties upon completing their respective domestic reform processes.

"If most of their East European comrades enter into diplomatic links with us, North Korea will not be able to continue ignoring our proposals for reconciliation and peaceful co-existence," he predicted, adding that Seoul's ambitious "Nordpolitik" is after all aimed at guiding Pyongyang into the international community in the long run.

"North Korean leader Kim Il-song should assume a sincere attitude in dialogue with the South if he wants to avoid isolation from the surging international trend of detente.

"We will soon be able to see the Soviet Union and China recognize South Korea in return for similar actions by the United States and Japan for North Korea in our long-cherished cross-recognition formula," he said.

He said that even ahead of that, South Korea would be admitted to the United Nations in accordance with its principle of universality, pointing to some East European nations which spoke for Seoul's entry during the UN General Assembly session last September.

Hong has been designated as ambassador to Malaysia, also a major diplomatic post in view of Seoul's schemes to pump its voice in the ASEAN sphere.

Trade Offices Sought in Communist Countries

SK2001064890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0631 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—The government will seek to set up trade offices, and help private businesses open branches, in communist nations in order to help expand their economic exchanges with South Korea this year.

Korea also will make efforts to increase trade based on industrial cooperation and study ways to participate in the Sino-Soviet border trade, according to plans drafted by the Trade and Industry Ministry.

The government will seek open trade offices in East Germany and Vietnam while agreement has been reached on setting up a Korean trade office in Czechoslovakia and negotiations are under way on opening one in China.

The government will encourage businesses to increase their investments in communist countries and expand trade based on industrial cooperation: such as exporting industrial facilities and raw materials, and importing manufactured goods.

To do this, it will ease regulations and give various incentives, including offering deferred payment funds and overseas investment funds.

It will also study ways to make inroads into China's Heihe and Suifenhe areas on the border with the Soviet Union in order to take part in the Sino-Soviet border trade.

In the Soviet Union, the government will help Korean firms promote sales of leather goods, process lumber, develop forests and build hotels.

To participate in the development of the Soviet Far East, the ministry will invite influential figures from Soviet economic and trade organizations to visit Korea this year.

The ministry will use the establishment of diplomatic ties with East European nations to increase economic cooperation with the region.

Exhibition Centers To Open

SK2301071890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—The state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) will establish exhibition centers in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, China and Vietnam to lay the foundation for direct trade with the communist bloc, KOTRA President Yi Sun-ki said Monday.

In a report to Trade and Industry Minister Han Sung-su, Yi said KOTRA will open a Prague center in the first quarter of the year, an East Berlin Center in the second quarter, and centers in Beijing and Ho Chi Minh City in the third quarter.

Each center will be manned by four-nine employees, including local hire, Yi added.

Among the four exhibition centers, the one in China is expected to be the largest with five Korean employees and four Chinese.

KOTRA's other important plans this year, he said, include the opening of exhibition halls in Pusan, Kwangju, Daejon, Si-hwa Industrial Zone and Anyang across South Korea.

The halls will help revitalize the economy in advance of local autonomy, which is expected to be enforced in the first half of this year, Yi added.

In addition, KOTRA is planning to increase the number of its domestic branch offices from eight to ten in order to enhance the productivity of small-and medium-sized business in rural areas.

Diplomatic Ties Sought With Mideast States

SK2001020490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] The government is holding negotiations to establish diplomatic relations with Syria, and some other Middle Eastern and African countries, a government source said yesterday.

He said the negotiations have gone smoothly up to now since the diplomats of the two countries met in Amman, Jordan, last March to discuss the issue.

A high-ranking Syrian official recently visited Seoul and talked with Korean officials about the possibility of normalizing ties between the two countries, the source said.

The government is also known to have had contacts with Egyptians to upgrade relations between Korea and Egypt from the consular to the diplomatic level.

PPD, Dissident Group Plan Opposition Parties

SK2501021690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0157 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 25 (YONHAP)—Lawmakers decrying the creation of a ruling alliance through a merger of two opposition parties and the government party announced Wednesday night that they will form a new opposition party.

Rebel members of Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) and Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) said they will join forces with dissidents to organize a movement to counter the huge ruling party, whose formation was announced on Monday.

President No Tae-u's Democratic Justice Party (DJP), the RDP and Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP) have tentatively named their alliance the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

PPD vice president Cho Yun-hyong said he and five fellow lawmakers from Kim Tae-chung's party will meet regularly and open an office in an effort to create a new opposition party.

"We will contact continuously with RDP assemblymen who have expressed their will to join the DLP and with dissidents as well as RDP lawmakers who rejected participation in the DLP," said Rep. Yi Sang-su, former PPD spokesman.

"Many RDP lawmakers who decided to join the DLP are now unsure," Yi said.

RDP Reps. No Mu-hyon and Kim Chong-kil said, "We will seek to create a pan-democratic opposition party by recruiting conscientious forces."

The "preparatory committee for inauguration of a progressive party" of the leading dissident group Chonminnyon (the National Movement for Democracy and Unification) also proposed forming a party made up of people who oppose the conservative alliance, including legislators who sought integration of the PPD and RDP and progressive lawmakers.

Leaders Considering Dual Executive Government

SK2301064890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0632 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 23 (YONHAP)—Leaders of South Korea's latest political grouping, a mega-party to be

created out of the ruling and two opposition parties, are considering a dual executive government system as an alternative to rewriting the nation's Constitution to clear the way for a parliamentary cabinet system, a top party official said Tuesday.

"A majority prefers revision of the Constitution to adopt a cabinet government system, but support for a dual executive system is emerging within both our party and the two opposition [words indistinct], chairman of the Democratic Justice Party, told reporters.

Officials from the three parties have said their leaders—No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil—have agreed in principle that the new party will try to amend the Constitution to replace the presidential system with a parliamentary cabinet system.

A political source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "in Monday's three-way talks at Chongwadae, the three discussed both the cabinet and the dual executive systems but failed to reach a complete agreement."

Under the dual executive system, compromise between the presidential and cabinet setups, power is divided between a president and a prime minister. The government system shifts to the presidential setup in a crisis, whereas in normal times the cabinet exercises administrative power, answerable to parliament.

Park, asked the possibility of Kim Yong-sam being prime minister in the next government, said, "I do not know if this was discussed in the meeting, but as far as I am aware there was no agreement on whether they should adopt the cabinet government system."

The three, in a statement after nine hours of talks at the presidential office, said, "the new party will strive to create a political system and a culture most suited to our nation."

Pak's remarks indicate a difference of opinion on the status of No and the Kims as the issue is directly linked to the system of government.

The dual executive system was once considered by former President Chon Tu-hwan as a way to stay on in power after his single seven-year term expired, but an attempt to rewrite the Constitution for that purpose was foiled by massive street demonstrations in June 1987.

Pak said it was not decided whether to revise the Constitution before general elections, which are not due until April 1992, or after the elections.

A 15-member committee comprising senior officials from the three parties will discuss the issue as well as the framework of government, Pak said.

He rejected in a firm tone the possibility that No will step down midway through his tenure. It has been denied several times before.

A dual executive system such as that in France is attractive since it could make it easier for the leadership to share power.

The outstanding problem of power sharing was evident when the three agreed to co-lead the soon-to-be created Democratic Liberal Party until an inaugural national party convention some time by the end of May but failed to assign themselves specific roles in the party leadership.

Dailies React to Merger of Political Parties

SK2501083890

[Editorial Report] Seoul vernacular papers on 22 January carry editorials on the merger of the three political parties—the Democratic Justice Party [DJP], the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], and the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP].

TONG-A ILBO on 22 January carries an 800-word editorial on page two titled "Shock Generated by the Merger of the Three Political Parties—There Should Be Clear Justification to Persuade the People." The editorial notes that "we cannot stem shock and perplexity to this truly surprising political change." It notes that the people should watch the development of the merger of the three political parties and "see if the political situation from now on will promise new hope and stability to the people." The editorial expresses concern over whether this realignment is truly in accordance with the spirit of a democratic government, which is "of the people, by the people, and for the people." It notes that desirable results will not be brought about if the realignment work carried out secretly "at a time when a new political party is being initiated under the banner of 'democracy, independence, and reunification,'" and notes that if this is a new political party advocating "the intentions of overcoming the existing concept of the ruling and opposition parties," democratic procedures to achieve this must be respected.

The editorial notes that the emergence of a progressive political party that can speak for the people of various strata of various regions is inevitable and this must not be avoided. It states that, "Especially, we must be aware of the fact that the merger of the three political parties which excluded the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] might bring about a certain isolation of the Honam area, thus resulting in increased provincialism." In conclusion, the editorial says, "In order for the merger of the three political parties to project a progressive appearance to the people, the three political parties must show political wisdom in deeply considering the problems confronting us. We are concerned if the merger of the three political parties are leaning toward an immediate profit and toward party tactics. This could damage harmony with the people and block the demand of the era that we move toward an advanced stage of politics. Were that to prove true, the merger of the three political parties would not be carried out smoothly."

CHUNGANG ILBO on 22 January carries a 1,500-word editorial on page two titled "Expectation and Worry Over the Merger of the Three Political Parties." The editorial terms the merger "truly shocking," and it notes that "it is too early to conclusively evaluate the merger which is a shocking change in political circles. However, it is possible to hope for a formation of a new order in political circles by frustrating the current four political party structure which is faced with many problems." It notes that the merger of the three political parties is in accordance with changes taking place at home and abroad, and is a quick and effective measure taken toward the demands that are made at home and abroad. The editorial says that, "we recognize the positive aspects of the merger," but frankly speaking, there is worry whether various problems resulting from this realignment can be settled.

The editorial goes on to cite problems that have been brought about due to the merger of the three political parties. It says that "the process of the merger of the three political parties was extremely undemocratic," and that, accordingly, we are concerned about what kind of new party it will be. The editorial also says that the merger has rather "deepened provincialism"; that there should be an answer to how the conservatives will unite, how the leaders of the three political parties would adjust their own stands, and how the new political party would make the change of generation in the political circles as desired by the people. The editorial says, "The evaluation of the new political party is ultimately dependent upon how it will carry out politics in the future." It concludes by saying that we will see if the new political party will become a reliable party that carries out quick measures according to the demand of the people at home and abroad or if it will just remain as a party distributing power among the parties to cover up their weak points.

KYONGHYANG SINMUN on 22 January carries a 1,500-word editorial on page 2 titled "'Political Revolution' by Merger of Conservatives—A New Political Plan Must Be Shown Toward a Bipartisan System." The editorial notes that "this kind of unnatural merger by the ruling and opposition parties is the first of its kind in the history of the constitutional government." It goes on to say that "we agree with the validity of the merger" but are worried over whether it can really contribute to political and national development. It notes that "in reality, practical tasks are expected to experience much pain and aftereffects." It expresses the hope that "the merger will contribute to stabilizing the political situation, democracy, and national development."

The editorial says that another important issue that cannot be overlooked is the fact that the new party might be running alone by weakening the progressive forces and opposition forces. The editorial stresses that "we must take note of the fact that the constitutional amendment for a parliamentary cabinet system was a precondition for the merger," and that prudent considerations must be made on the issue of a parliamentary cabinet system. The editorial concludes by saying that, "Now is the time for all political forces to open their minds and think about the future of the government with a the long-range view."

CHOSON ILBO, in its 1,500-word editorial carried on page 3 of the 23 January edition under the title "Expectations Toward a Drastic Shakeup of the Political Circles," describes the merger as "diastrophic deformation" which signals the emergence of a "mammoth new ruling bloc," and as the "self- extrication" of No Tae-u and the two Kims. CHOSON ILBO describes the merger also as the "political circles" reaction to the sense of crisis and discontent which have grown among the conservative middle class and economic circles due to the phenomenon of fragmentation in the political circles."

The editorial urges the party to adopt a "stand of daring democratic reform" toward "revising the old laws" and "promoting the people's welfare." The paper also urges "democratic operation" within the party and "globalization" of politics.

Expressing its concern toward the future, CHOSON ILBO goes on to say: "If a conservative middle-of-the-road policy would be the platform of the new political bloc, an important question is inevitably raised on how the rights of those reform-oriented discontents and workers would be protected in future politics. Of course, a pledge has been made toward accommodating moral conservatives and rational progressives. However, to protect their rights and interests in the future, necessary laws must be revised and, by doing so, a way must be adequately paved to help the emergence of an even more reform-oriented and progressive political party in the political arena."

In conclusion, CHOSON ILBO says "we will keep watch on how the rhetoric about 'new thinking' will be transferred into reality."

HANGUK ILBO carries a 1,500-word editorial on page 2 of its 23 January edition under the title "The Emergence of a Mammoth New Political Party." Noting the people's bewilderment in the wake of the merger of the three political parties and also saying that there was a need for political restructuring, HANGUK ILBO says that "the merger of the three political parties can be affirmatively assessed, because a leading force can be formed to cope with the political situation and because a stable state operation can be expected."

Expressing concern over the political consequences to be brought about by the merger, the editorial concludes that the "success of the new political party depends on establishing its ethics. Of course, we know this is a difficult task. However, if a new party is founded only to allow each faction to try to defend its vested rights and to seek its own interest," the people will instantly turn away from the new party. "Follow-up measures such as holding general elections must be carried out to allow the people to have an opportunity to evaluate the new

party." This is because the people's opinion and desire are not being reflected in the course of the founding of the party.

SEOUL SINMUN, in its 1,500-word editorial carried on page 2 of the 23 January edition under the title "The Shock and Expectations Over the Declaration for a Merger and a New Political Party," describes the merger as "a revolutionary event." Noting the need for follow-up measures to earn people's understanding and support, the editorial expresses concern over the "possibility of even worse regional frictions and political division" between the Cholla provinces and other regions. Touching on the question of parliamentary government, the editorial goes on to say: "The parliamentary government seems to be a condition in founding the new party. We think that the people are not very positive about the parliamentary government when it comes to political stability, because they have familiarized themselves only with the presidential government." In this connection, the editorial urges efforts to make the people believe in the "need for new system" and believe "that stability can be brought about by the new system."

Poll Says Majority Find Regionalism 'Runs Deep'

SK2401015490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Pusan—Some 95 percent of social leaders in Cholla and Kyongsang provinces believe regional antagonism runs deep but they are widely split on what caused it and how it should be resolved.

When the social studies institute of Pusan National University surveyed 1,500 people in the provinces, 39 percent said the problem is serious while 56 percent said it is an "extremely serious" problem.

Eighty percent of the Cholla province respondents said unbalanced economic development between the provinces was the main cause, coupled with unbalanced appointments to public offices.

But among the Kyongsang provicne pollees, 70 percent said regional bias is fanned by politicians. Half of the respondents also said differences in attitudes and character traits cause the problem.

In rooting out the prejudices, people in the Cholla provinces believe a fair development policy and appointments to official posts are the answers.

For the Kyongsang respondents, an overall change in government leaders and a merger of opposition parties were better solutions.

These results were revealed in a four-month survey by the university institute which began last August. Answers were collected from 1,500 people, 450 from Pusan and Kwangju each and 300 from Taegu and Chonju, mostly social leaders such as local government officials, managerial level officers at finance, media and educational institutions.

Thirty-seven percent said the provincial prejudice took root during the Third and Fourth Republics, and 56 percent said the bias became deeper during and after the Fifth Republic.

But the people in the Kyongsang provinces tended to believe the root of the prejudice goes back further than the Third and Fourth Republics. Only 27 percent of the area pollees said the bias began during these times, compared to 54 percent in the Cholla provinces, according to the survey.

When asked to choose possible causes for the bias, 55 percent chose unequal regional development policy, 46 percent chose unfair public appointments, 45 percent believed politicians fan it during elections while 25 percent chose characteristic and attitudinal differences.

Unbalanced regional development was the top reason for the Cholla pollees at 80 percent, while only 20 percent of the Kyongsang respondents gave the same answer.

The survey found 64 percent of the pollees believe the rift is between Cholla and Kyongsang provinces while 27 percent said it is between Cholla and other provinces.

The provinces were split on this question as well, with 70 percent of the Cholla pollees saying the rift is between the two provinces compared with 30 percent among the Kyongsang respondents.

On solutions to the prejudices, the most favored was balanced development in every region (65 percent), followed by equal public appointments (52 percent), changes in government leaders (40 percent), resolution of the 1980 Kwangju uprising controversy, and a merger of opposition parties (39 percent).

Hong Tong-sik, who headed the survey project, said the dramatic differences in answers are caused by a lack of understanding between provinces.

"An overwhelming majority of administrative posts are filled by people from their own district. The rate of 'nativeness' is 92 percent for Kwangju, 92 percent for Chonju, 90 percent for Pusan and 82 percent for Taegu. This kind of concentration only raises barriers between different provinces, Hong said.

Dissidents Sentenced for Antistate Activities

SK2501020690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] A Seoul court handed down a two-year jail term to a dissident and one and a half years in prison for three others for attempting to establish an antistate organization to fan anti-Americanism in Korea.

Ko Hyon-chu, 28, a senior official of the main dissident group Chonminnyon, was sentenced to two years in prison for trying to organize the "Korea-America Research Institute" as well as for producing materials benefitting North Korea.

Dissident Mun Pu-sik, 31, and two others were also ordered to be jailed for one year and six months, respectively, for similar convictions.

Judge Hong Sok-che of the Seoul District Criminal Court said in the ruling the accused violated the National Security Law by trying to set up an institute detrimental to national security, even through they claimed that the organization was a purely academic one.

Hong stated that they deserve the jail terms in view of their previous criminal records.

Ko and the three others were arrested last July 30. They are expected to appeal the verdict.

Korea Exchange Bank Goes Private, Commercial

SK2001013290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 20 Jan 90 p 6

[Text] The Korea Exchange Bank [KEB] yesterday held an extraordinary shareholders meeting at its headquarters in Myongdong, Seoul, to set out as a privatized commercial bank.

At the meeting, shareholders adopted new articles needed to operate banking business under the General Banking Act and resolved to finish registration procedures for the conversion of the state-run bank to a private company by the end of this month.

Last December, the National Assembly passed a law to abolish the Korea Exchange Bank Law, allowing the 23-year-old state-run bank to become the nation's ninth commercial bank.

Yi Yong-man, president of the Korea Exchange Bank, said at the shareholders meeting that the bank will sell all its shares amounting to 405 billion won through public subscription in May to list the company stocks on the Korea Stock Exchange by the end of June.

In line with this, the KEB will hold consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Korea in February or March to set concrete measures for the disposal of shares, said Yi.

Established in 1967 as a state-run bank, the KEB has made a great contribution to the nation's rapid economic development by introducing an enormous amount of foreign loans to the country.

The KEB with over 8,000 employees and more than 5 trillion won in deposits operates 50 overseas branches, the largest number among all Korean banks.

It has also three subsidiaries—KEB Visa Card, Korea-International Merchant Banking Corp., and KEB Leasing Corp.

Meanwhile, the KEB has mapped out a midterm blueprint, under which the bank will secure 150 billion in net profits in 1992 to become the top bank in terms of profitability, a bank spokesman said.

Efforts To Minimize Customs Disputes Outlined

SK2001024690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] Hong Chae-hyong, commissioner of the Korea Customs Administration [KCA], said yesterday that the agency will make every effort to minimize customs disputes in the international export market.

He also said that computerization networks with foreign customs authorities will be substantially expanded to upgrade cooperative relations with Korea's trade partners.

Reporting to Finance Minister Yi Kyu-song on KCA's policy for this year, Hong said that customs clearance systems will be further improved and the process will be simplified to help boost external trade exchanges and to ensure the convenience of overseas travellers.

A KCA report shows that exports jumped 275 percent in the past 10 years from $22.3 billion in 1980 to $61.3 billion in 1989 and imports rose 356 percent from $17.5 billion to $62.3 billion.

In volume, external trade swelled 210 percent from 95 million tons in 1980 to 200 million tons and the yearly number of overseas travellers soared 290 percent from 2.5 million to 7.3 million.

The KCA envisages that external trade will increase 305 percent in the coming 10 years from the $134 billion projected for this year to $410 billion in 2000 and that those who travel overseas will rise 250 percent from 9.2 million to 23 million.

Commissioner Hong also reported that customs cooperation will be expedited with Asian and Pacific countries.

He revealed that the heads of customs authorities of the United States, Japan, China, Canada and 11 other Pacific rim nations will gather together in Seoul in September to seek ways of promoting cooperative exchanges.

The KCA will try to establish tie-ups with Chian and ASEAN member nations with which Korea has no regular consultative meetings, he said.

In addition, the KCA will provide technical support in customs administration to developing nations, while expanding customs cooperation with France and Iran.

In the coming days, Hong explained, the focus of the customs administration will have to be given to rooting out underground networks of drugs, protecting intellectual property rights, regulating exports of key strategic items and curbing illegal imports.

Noting the rising underground trafficking of narcotics and other drugs, he said that customs officials will be sent abroad for special training while anti-drug experts will be invited to visit Korea to give advice.

A certain amount of money will be given in reward to those providing tips on smuggling of drugs and other contraband items into Korea, he said, adding that major smuggling products are gold ingots, sesame and marine goods.

Labor-Management Disputes Studied in Poll

SK2001021890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] The majority of the Korean people believe that the current economic crisis results from class and regional imbalances as well as price unstability.

They also show a deep apprehension about the development of serious labor-management disturbances, according to a survey by the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy.

The survey covered 1,500 people over the age of 20 living across the country excluding Cheju island.

As many as 87.5 percent of the polled responded that the national economy is now in a critical condition.

In particular, 39 percent said that economic conditions for this year would be worse than last year, while 27.7 percent took the opposite position.

As for the major economic problems at present, 49.9 percent cited price instability, 23.8 percent unearned income, 11.7 percent unemployment and 9.7 percent poor exports.

Some 46 percent said that increases in housing prices have chiefly destabilized consumer and wholesale prices.

On the other hand, 12.9 percent pinpointed prices of industrial products as the second main reason, followed by public charges (9.3 percent) and prices of agricultural and fisheries goods (4.2 percent).

In the meantime, 86.7 percent considered the current labor-management relation situation serious.

With regard to factors which trigger labor-management conflicts, 55.1 percent pointed out poor working conditions, 20.3 percent inhuman treatment of workers by entrepreneurs, 9.1 percent excess labor demands and 8.8 percent the intervention of third parties.

About 50 percent attributed the stagnation in exports to labor conflicts, while 10 percent suggested the won's appreciation and 12.3 percent the import restrictions in the United States, the 12-member European Community and other advanced countries.

As many as 60.5 percent were optimistic that labor disturbances for the year would be more peaceful than last year.

But 19.5 percent said that they would become more violent and radical.

The survey also discovered that 82.1 percent favor arbitration in labor conflicts on a government level.

Specifically, 57 percent supported the mobilization of police to crack down on illegal labor activities and third parties intervening in labor disputes.

More than 49 percent said that the government has failed to reflect the opinions of the people in the management of the national economy.

Meanwhile, some 90 percent said that the introduction of state control on land ownership and real name financial transactions would substantially contribute to removing class and regional imbalances as well as other social irregularities.

Based on its survey, the institute affiliated with the Economic Planning Board called upon the government to create a peaceful industrial atmosphere free of labor conflicts as soon as possible.

It emphasized that productivity should be improved for economic recovery.

The institute also asked business concerns to expand investment in technology development and advised workers to demand wage increases within productivity hikes.

According to statistics from the institute, 1,618 cases of labor conflicts broke out last across the country.

The figure showed a 14 percent decrease over 1988.

However, production and export losses due to labor-management disputes rose 52 percent and 115.3 percent, respectively, to an average 2.6 billion won and $842,000 per case.

Last year, business concerns increased wages for their workers by 20.2 percent on average but their productivity declined by more than 2 percent.

In contrast, the wage and productivity increases in Taiwan, one of the four Asian newly industrializing countries along with Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong, registered 15.6 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

Burma

Government Troops Seize Rebel Camp 24 Jan

BK2501011390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Mae Sot—Burmese troops yesterday seized a dissident student camp following fierce fighting with rebel forces.

Informed Border Patrol Police sources said about 500 Burmese troops from the 33rd Division fought a fierce battle with a combined force of 300 Karen and Democratic Alliance of Burma rebels and armed students near Mae Kala student camp, opposite Phop Phra District.

Burmese gunners opened up with artillery and mortar fire at 3 p.m. before launching a ground assault.

The fighting lasted until dusk when the rebel forces were forced to pull back and cede Mae Kala camp to advancing Burmese troops.

Sources said the rebels had retreated to Mawkier camp, about 45 kilometres south of this district, and about 200 unarmed students had fled to the Thai side of Mawkier village to seek temporary refuge.

State Paper Urges Rebel Leader To Surrender

BK2401130890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Rangoon, Jan 24 (AFP)—A state-run newspaper called Wednesday [24 January] on the leader of ethnic Karen rebels fighting the Burmese Government to "lay down his arms and surrender."

The WORKING PEOPLES DAILY said the Karen National Union (KNU) leader Bo Mya had no choice but to "apologise to the people for his misdeeds, lay down his arms and surrender."

The newspaper was apparently responding to an "open letter" Bo Mya addressed earlier this month to General Saw Maung, the head of Burma's military junta, calling for a political settlement to the 40-year-old insurgency in Burma. The daily said Bo Mya's message was motivated by the capture of one after another of his allegedly "impregnable" strongholds along the Thai-Burmese border by government forces.

"In earlier times, the KNU would seek sanctuary on the other side of the border when forced by government onslaughts but would return to Burma when the military left the area," it said. Due to "friendly coordination" between Thai and Burmese leaders the KNU had now lost their sanctuary across the border, the daily said.

The Burmese military has overrun several major KNU camps on the border since late 1988 in a bid to take control of lucrative logging operations which fund the insurgency.

Gen. Saw Maung's government, officially dubbed the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), seized power in September 1988 and pledged to hold multi-party elections and defeat ethnic insurgents. The SLORC has said it would have no peace talks with the various insurgencies, estimated now at around 25 separate groups.

"If the KNU sincerely desired a political settlement they should have abandoned their armed resistance when they had the chance and taken part in the multi-party general elections we have promised," Gen. Saw Maung said earlier this month.

During the three decades between 1958 and 1988 there were five abortive attempts at peace talks, one of them initiated by the insurgents themselves, the newspaper said. During that period, over 56,000 insurgents, including the KNU and the Burmese communists, laid down their arms and "returned to the legal fold," suffering no retribution from the people "against whom they had committed untold atrocities," the newspaper said. Nearly 9,000 more insurgents took advantage of general amnesties declared periodically, it added.

In a speech this month, Gen. Saw Maung reported that some 28,000 government soldiers had been killed and 48,000 disabled in fighting insurgents over the years. Taking into account the insurgents and civilians killed would bring the death toll connected with the insurgency into the hundreds of thousands, he said.

Gen. Saw Maung said he agreed in principle that political problems should be solved politically, but while the military was in power it would crush "all insurgents and other organisations which attempt to hamper or disrupt the promised elections set for May 27."

An elected government is just a few months away, according to the SLORC, and it "would have to handle the political settlement of the insurgency."

The SLORC has called on the people to join hands with the military in annihilating insurgency in the country.

Delegation Departs for Vienna Drug Meeting

BK2501073690 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] A Myanma [Burmese] delegation led by Colonel Thura Pe Aung, secretary of the Central Narcotic Drugs Control Board and director general of the People's Police Force, left Myanma by air this afternoon to attend the 11th special meeting of the Narcotic Drugs Commission which will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 29 January to 2 February 1990.

Members of the director general of police are: Air Force Colonel Tin Ngwe from the Ministry of Defense; Police Director Ngwe Soe Tun, director of the Department of Narcotic Drugs Control and Suppression of the People's Police Force Headquarters; U Thein Aung Lwin, joint

director of the Department of Foreign Economic Relations; and Deputy Director Aye Ko of the People's Police Force Headquarters.

Cambodia

National Assembly To Debate Peace Plans

BK2501135490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 25 (AFP)—Cambodia's National Assembly is to debate peace plans for the country put forward by Australia and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, an official Cambodian source said Thursday. The new session of the National Assembly, which is due to open Friday and last for some 10 days, will debate a three-point formula proposed by Mr. Hun Sen Wednesday based on an Australian plan put forward in November by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

The plan called for the creation of a national council and having the United Nations handle the administration of the country, impose a ceasefire and prepare elections.

Mr. Hun Sen proposed that his own and the resistance's Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) be kept in place to administer the areas they currently control, a national council to which each side would nominate its own delegates and a U.N. authority to monitor the country until general elections. The council would be in power until the elections were held. Mr. Hun Sen also proposed that the U.N. verify the Vietnamese troop pullout, announced unilaterally by Hanoi at the end of September, and ensure a halt to foreign aid to the Cambodian factions.

The debate comes as relative calm reigns in the west and northwest of the country where the tripartite resistance coalition has launched several violent offensives since the Vietnamese withdrawal.

Vietnam invaded the country in late 1978 to oust a Khmer Rouge regime blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its near four-year rule. The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge now make up the military muscle of the resistance coalition which includes non-communist supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and of former Premier Son Sann.

"The assembly must look at the Australian plan and at the government proposals made concerning this plan," assembly deputy Khieu Kanharit said, adding that the debate was expected to go well "given the general consensus of opinion on this matter."

Mr. Kanharit said the assembly would also discuss a reorganisation of government administration. "To make government administration more efficient, a more flexible structure is needed, in particular giving more power to ministers," he said. Leaving all decision making to the president of the council was "not good," he added.

Under its 1981 Constitution the National Assembly appointed a seven-member Council of State headed by President Heng Samrin and a 16-member Council of Ministers.

Mr. Kanharit ruled out a ministerial reshuffle "in the immediate future," adding that the assembly would not be debating the issue of multi-party rule, the setting up of which would be "premature" before a settlement of the Cambodian question among the warring factions.

In May Prince Sihanouk, during his fourth face-to-face meeting with Mr. Hun Sen in Jakarta, called for multi-party rule to be written into the constitution. On Wednesday Mr. Hun Sen said a multi-party system was inevitable given the call for general elections, but ruled out the introduction of such a system until a settlement was reached with the resistance because to do so now "would introduce a second-front which would benefit the resistance."

Mr. Kanharit also said the assembly could postpone until its next session a decision on whether to extend its mandate. This would depend on the outcome of upcoming talks between the Cambodian factions in Jakarta, he said.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas suggested Thursday that an informal conference on Cambodia be held in Jakarta on February 26.

Elected in 1981, the 117-member National Assembly extended its five-year mandate in 1985 because of the military situation in the country. Deputies envisaged holding fresh elections sometime in the first three months of this year if an agreement appeared impossible.

On Wednesday Prince Sihanouk said he was stepping down as head of the resistance and president of the CGDK because of "widespread hostility" to him, but would remain "head of state". On Thursday he said he was dissociating himself from the Khmer Rouge, but called Phnom Penh "stooges of Vietnamese colonialism."

Greetings Received From Czechoslovak Leaders

President Greets Heng Samrin

BK2401054390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Recently Mr Vaclav Havel, president of the CSSR, sent a greetings message to Comrade Heng Samrin, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State. The message noted:

I would like to extend sincere salutations and congratulations to you on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the 7 January National Day.

I highly value the Cambodian people's efforts in building a society which is independent and has social justice.

I have paid attention to the significance of the political talks aimed at settling the conflict in your country and at advancing toward peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

I wish you success in fulfilling these aims.

Premier Calfa Greets Hun Sen

BK2401055490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Recently, Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, received a greetings message from Mr Marian Calfa, premier of the CSSR Government. The message noted:

I would like to extend sincere greetings to you on the 11th anniversary of Cambodia's 7 January national day.

I am convinced that the relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between our two countries will further develop fruitfully in the interests of peace and progress in the world.

May you enjoy good health and success in fulfilling your noble mission.

Foreign Minister Greets Hun Sen

BK2501072490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] On the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the 7 January National Day, Jiri Dienstbier, CSSR foreign minister, has sent a greetings message to Comrade Hun Sen, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia. The message said, among other things:

Please accept my sincere salutations and congratulations on your national day. May you enjoy good health and success in your noble mission.

Hun Sen Sends Thanks to Indian Prime Minister

BK2201073390 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, recently conveyed a message of thanks to His Excellency Pratap Singh Vishwanath, prime minister of the Republic of India.

The message read:

On behalf of the Cambodian Government and people and in my own name, I would like to express thanks for the warmest greetings that your excellency sent to me on the 11th anniversary of the 7 January National Day.

May the time-honored relations between Cambodia and India continue to expand and consolidate in the future.

Indian Prime Minister Returns Thanks to Hun Sen

BK2501102590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, recently received a message of thanks from His Excellency Vishwanath Pratap Singh, prime minister of the Republic of India. Among other things, the message says:

I would like to express thanks for the warm congratulations you sent me on my election to the post of Prime Minister of India. I hope to be working closely with you to further strengthen the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Cambodia and India. We will [word indistinct] to consolidate the common goal for peace and progress of our two countries, Cambodia and India. We give highest priority to a peaceful solution, which ensures Cambodia's sovereignty, independence, and nonaligned status, and which prevents the recurrence of the past genocidal regime.

We will strive to contribute to this process. Please accept our most sincere consideration and best wishes for your own health and the progress and well-being of the Cambodian people.

EC Grants Aid Package to 'Cambodian Population'

BK2301024990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] The European Commission [EC] yesterday announced a 14.5-million-baht humanitarian aid package for "the Cambodian population".

"In view of the renewed fighting in Cambodia and given the large number of injured people, the EC has decided to grant ECU [European Currency Unit] 500,000 (about 14.5 million baht) in humanitarian assistance to the Cambodian population," an EC statement said.

"This assistance will consist of sending medical teams and their equipment and supplies of medicine to the zones where fighting is taking place, in particular the Battambang area.

"The teams are seconded by the non-government organisations Medecins Sans Frontieres [Doctors Without Borders] (France), Medecins Sans Frontieres (Belgium) and Medecins Du Monde [World Doctors] (France), the two former providing co-financing on its own resources.

"The first team from a total of 17 surgeons, doctors, nurses and technicians to be sent to Cambodia flew out on January 19," the statement said.

Hun Sen Receives Humanitarian Organization

BK2501075690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] On the morning of 24 January at the office of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Hun Sen, member of the

party Central Committee Political Bureau, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister, received a delegation from the Aid Program for Developing Cambodia, (PADEC) for short, led by (Joe Thanil).

On this occasion, the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers cordially welcomed the delegation. The comrade considered this visit very important as it enabled the entire delegation to have a better u. ler-standing of the real situation in the State of Cambodia. The comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers profoundly thanked the (PADEC) organization for assisting the Cambodian people and contributing to restoring progress in building Cambodia following the destruction by the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

At the request of the delegation, comrade Chairman Hun Sen informed the (PADEC) delegation of the current situation in the State of Cambodia by stressing the new position full of goodwill of the State of Cambodia's Government in the search for a solution to find peace for the Cambodian people.

Replying, (Joe Thanil), representative of the (PADEC) organization profoundly thanked the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers for taking precious time off to receive him and the entire delegation and draw the attention of the delegation to what it has seen during its current visit to Cambodia. Finally, (Joe Thanil) also informed the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers that the (PADEC) organization will strive to carry out activities to further assist the Cambodia people. He promised to convey what he witnessed in Cambodia to various countries so that these countries' people have a better understanding of the real situation in Cambodia.

Chea Soth Closes State Planning Meeting 24 Jan

BK2501075590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] The 1990 state planning meeting held at the Tuol Kouk planning school by the Ministry of Planning ended its work successfully on the afternoon of 24 January under the chairmanship of Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During the 2-day session, participants listened attentively to the report by Comrade Chea Chanto, alternate member of the party Central Committee and minister of planning, and addresses by representatives of various institutions, provinces, and cities throughout the country, on the outcome of the 1989 socioeconomic tasks and a number of weak and strong points encountered in the past year.

The participants also discussed and exchanged views on various issues. They paid particular attention to the targets of the 1990 socioeconomic tasks which include many important measures set forth in the state plan for guiding the implementation of work effectively.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Chea Soth stressed that to carry out the 1990 state planning tasks successfully, it is imperative for all institutions, provinces, and cities throughout the country to publicize the 1990 planning tasks and all the management measures of all sectors in a timely manner. At the same time, it is imperative to pay attention to ensuring security for the people in the current harvest season and arrange for the maintenance, protection, and repair of roads and bridges in a timely manner in response to the requirements in the changing situation.

Radio Rounds Up Enemy Military Activities

BK2301062690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] This wee'., from 6 to 13 January, the three groups of reactionary enemies insanely fired all kinds of artillery pieces on a number of areas north of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Banteay Meanchey, and particularly in Battambang Province. However we grasped all the enemy's plans and timely thwarted them before the enemies could harass us both along the border and inside the country.

This week, our Armed Forces launched 16 operations and put out of action 213 enemy soldiers, including 184 killed, 4 taken prisoners, and 25 surrendered. We also seized 32 weapons and a large quantity of war materiel and destroyed 6 weapons.

Kompong Thom Forces Reportedly Kill 55 Rebels

BK2401093990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] To maintain security for peasants in this rice harvest season and to prevent enemy troops from plundering paddy, rice, and the property of innocent people living in some remote areas in Kompong Thom Province, all local units of the province's people's Armed Forces have exerted and are exerting great efforts to sweep enemy troops achieving remarkable successes.

From 11 to 13 January, armed forces in Stoung District, in cooperation with militia units and their colleagues in Chikreng District, Siem Reap Province, as well as Armed Forces in Kompong Svay District which joined hands with their colleagues in Santuk District, were conducting separate mopping-up operations against enemy troops, killing 55, wounding 16, and capturing 4 of them. We also arrested 3 infiltrating enemy elements and seized 12 guns and a great quantity of war materiel.

Phnom Penh Radio Reports Action in Battambang

BK2401132990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] According to reports from Battambang Province, on the night of 23 January, well informed of the positions and activities of the enemy, Battambang Province's

combined forces, in cooperation with armed units operating on front lines, intercepted and crushed Pol Potist bandits who were to infiltrate an area of Moung Russei District. As a result, our Armed Forces put many enemy elements out of action. Of this number, 11 were killed and 15 wounded, including a unit commander. We also seized 10 guns, a field radio, and a great deal of war materiel.

Moreover, on 21 January, the Armed Forces on mission in Treng launched a search-and-destroy operation against the enemy 3 km south of the Chisang area, killing six enemy soldiers.

With their continuous successes, our Armed Forces in Battambang Province and other provinces throughout the country continue to defeat the three enemy groups and plunge them into a dismal morass.

Our people welcome the victories and have growing confidence in the capability of our courageous and brave people's Armed Forces which are their firm protection.

Heng Samrin Hails Victory in Varin District

BK2501070590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 90

["Text" of message from Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State, to cadres, combatants, and people in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province—date not given]

[Text] Beloved comrades, cadres, and combatants of the Armed Forces and compatriots throughout Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province:

On behalf of the party, state, and front and in my own name, I would like to express warm commendation for the victory won by cadres and combatants of the Armed Forces and people throughout Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province on the battlefield in Varin District on 23 January 1990.

The valiant and resolute struggle waged by male and female combatants, and compatriots on this Varin District battlefield has inflicted a most shameful defeat, since the onset, to the adventurous perfidious scheme of the Pol Pot and Moulinaka [Sihanoukists] elements who have colluded in an attempt to seize Varin District seat for use as a springboard in their move to seize Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province. This constitutes a dark design to oppose the Cambodian people's rebirth and destroy all achievements scored by our people in the past more than 11 years.

Like all other victories won on the battlefields along the Cambodian-Thai border, this victory on Varin District battlefield is a victory of our Armed Forces' combined forces, including regular, regional, militia, and police forces, cadres, personnel, workers, and people throughout Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province. This victory clearly reflects the combat capability of our Armed Forces of all categories and our peopl throughout the country in the fight against the Po Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann Cambodian reactionary group in order to defend our rebirth and all the achievement which we have made.

On behalf of the party, state, and front, and in my ow name, I would like to express sincere congratulations an commendation to cadres and combatants of the regula regional, militia, and police forces and the peopl throughout Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province wh have displayed their courageous spirit and who have wo these brilliant feats on the battlefield in Varin District

Beloved cadres, male and female combatants, an people, through the activities launched three [word indistinct] in the past 11 years, particularly since th total withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers fro Cambodia in September, we can see clearly that th Cambodian reactionaries do not have any real intentio to settle the Cambodian problem in order to bring peac and happiness to the Cambodian people. Their only pla is to invade and topple the state administration of th State of Cambodia—the sole force which struggles reso lutely to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime fro returning to trample upon the lives, rights, freedom customs, and traditions of our people. They have tried t rob everything that our people have built in the pa more than 11 years through countless difficulties.

Despite the fact that the enemies have suffered succe sive defeats on various battlefields, they have soug every means and every chance to undermine us throug most perfidious and barbarous maneuvers, vigorousl stimulating psychological warfare propaganda an boasting about their victories in an attempt to fool an scare our cadres, combatants, and people.

For this reason, on behalf of the party, state, and fro and in my own name, I would like to call on cadres an combatants of the Armed Forces at all levels and in a sectors, and all our people, to always heighten vigilanc strive to expand the combined forces of our Arme Forces and people, and fight to timely smash all sabotag maneuvers of the Cambodian reactionaries of all stripe to successfully prevent the return of the genocidal P Pot regime by effectively implementing these slogan Everything is for defending all national achievement Everything is for the battlefield; The cause of our pe ple's just struggle will certainly win.

I wish all cadres, male and female combatants, an compatriots in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province a well as throughout the country good health and brilliar victories in 1990. Thank you.

Impact of Sihanouk Resignation Downplayed

BK2501091190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 25 Jan 90

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, Jan 25 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk's resignation as the head of the Cambodian resistance movement will have no effect on ongoing talks toward peace in Cambodia a Foreign Ministry official said here Thursday. "We will pursue the negotiations, whatever our interlocutors," Chum Bunrong said, adding, "In any case Prince Sihanouk is only the nominal head of the coalition of which the Khmer Rouge is the main element."

"It is not the first time the former Cambodian monarch has had this kind of sudden change of mood," he added. "We think the talks should not be a function of the prince's attitude."

The prince, ousted in March 1970 in a coup d'etat by General Lon Nol, said Wednesday from his residence in Beijing that he was quitting the presidency of the armed Cambodian opposition and that he would no longer participate in international conferences or inter-Cambodian talks aimed at resolving the conflict. But the prince said he was retaining his position as the "legal head of the Cambodian State," reasserting his position that his 1970 ouster by Lon Nol was illegal.

Khieu Kanharit, chief editor of the pro-government weekly KAMPUCHEA, said the resignation was "as much for the internal purposes of the opposition as it was for international purposes. Each time Sihanouk is in trouble with the Khmer Rouge, he quits as a way to get them to bow down to him, since they need him to present a respectable facade," Mr. Kanharit added. [passage omitted]

Mr. Kanharit said, "The prince may also be keeping his distance from the opposition to appear as the natural leader of a transitional national council" which would be installed for an interim period preceding general elections in Cambodia. Such a council was proposed Wednesday by Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen as part of a three-point formula based on an Australian plan put forward in November by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk 'Dissociating' From Khmer Rouge

BK2501053790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0532 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 25 (AFP)—Cambodia's former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk said he was dissociating himself from the Khmer Rouge in a statement circulated Thursday by his office here. Prince Sihanouk, who resigned Wednesday as head of a Khmer Rouge-dominated guerrilla coalition fighting forces of the Vietnam-installed Cambodian Government, said the move was aimed at demonstrating that he "would not shoulder the responsibility of what the Khmer Rouge are doing."

Vietnam ousted the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge from power when it invaded Cambodia 11 years ago and ended the organization's nearly four years of fanatical Marxist rule under which hundreds of thousands lost their lives. With massive assistance from Beijing, the Khmer Rouge now represents the military backbone of an uneasy guerrilla coalition joining them with followers of Prince Sihanouk and of former Conservative Prime Minister Son Sann.

The prince has been criticized for allying himself to the Khmer Rouge, which diplomats and other Western observers charge has not renounced its brutal methods. Prince Sihanouk, 68, said his resignation was intended to establish "that I am in no way an accomplice of the Khmer Rouge." He said he had nonetheless retained his position as president of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, which holds Cambodia's seat at the United Nations, because he did not want Cambodia's "state legitimacy" to go to Phnom Penh's pro-Vietnamese regime.

Democratic Kampuchea was the formal name given to Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge when it overthrew the U.S.-backed Lon Nol government in Phnom Penh in April 1975.

Prince Sihanouk also said he would retain the title of president because he "could not recognize" his own 1970 overthrow "by the pro-U.S. imperialist Lon Nol clique."

VOK Reports on Sihanouk Resignation Statement

BK2501072890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk resigned from his positions as leader of the Cambodian national resistance movement and president of the Supreme Council of the Democratic Kampuchean National Army and suspended his leadership of the coalition government and said he will not take part in any international conference or any meeting of Cambodian parties. The samdech said in his statement dated 24 January 1990 that he has suspended his leadership of the tripartite Cambodian coalition government but retained the position of president of Cambodia, which is a legitimate position. He pointed out that he thus still keeps his position of president of Democratic Kampuchea until genuinely free elections are held in Cambodia. However, he will not head a coalition government.

SRV Battalion Reported Routed Near Varin

BK2501072090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] On 21 January the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets mobilized troops totaling a battalion from various places and sent them out to attempt to retake Varin District seat from us. These troops, escorted by two tanks, five trucks, and three artillery pieces, were ambushed and routed by our national resistance forces at Don Peng. We killed eight Vietnamese-puppet soldiers and wounded many others. We destroyed two trucks and all materiel in the trucks.

VONADK Reports on Situation in Bavel

BK2501024690 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Our national resistance forces have continued to cut off the routes leading to Bavel District [Battambang Province] and to intensify attacks on the positions of the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets, thus causing great panic to the enemies. The puppet district governor and commune committee members installed by the Vietnamese enemies have all fled from Bavel to Thmar Koul. Meanwhile, the other Vietnamese puppet administrators have hidden in different areas and dared not go to their office.

Those puppet soldiers from the 6th Division who were routed in Toek Sap and fled to Bavel have been in great panic and kept deserting their ranks. The commander of the 6th Division who has just arrived in Bavel was also in great panic. He requested aid from Battambang, but to no avail because those in Battambang do not have sufficient forces for sending him help. They themselves were in great panic for fear that the resistance forces might attack Battambang Town again.

Thus, the situation in Bavel District is marked by the fact that the enemies are in great panic and keep deserting their ranks, having no support.

Comparison of Sihanouk Message to Youths

Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian at 2315 GMT on 24 January carries a recorded portion of excerpts of Sihanouk's message to the Cambodian youths. The VONADK version has been compared with the VOK version published in the 23 January DAILY REPORT, page 38, revealing the following variations:

Column two, paragraph four, sentence five reads: ...17 March 1970. That is, since 18 March after the Lon Nol clique which betrayed and sold our nation to the American imperialists staged a coup d'etat and toppled me. Since then, our... (providing additional sentence)

Page 39, column one, paragraph four, sentence one reads: ...Sihanoukist National Army [ANS];

2. The front of Messrs Son Sann and Sak Sutsakhan, the blue Khmer who used to conspire with the American imperialists; and

3. The front of Messrs Son Sen and Khieu Samphan, who are presently in... (providing additional words, deleting the sentence numbered three dealing with Khmer Rouge leaders, providing new sentence number three)

Page 40, column one, paragraph four, sentence two reads: ...Hun Sen-Heng Samrin clique. Their regime is as corrupt as that of the Lon Nol clique. They are preparing to flee as in the 1974-75 period when the Lon Nol clique packed up the property it gathered from selling out the nation to the American imperialists and fled for its life, leaving its soldiers behind to suffer and die. Therefore, you must not let the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin elements fool you. They are doing what the Lon Nol clique did in the past. The Hun Sen-Heng Samrin... (providing additional sentences)

Column two, paragraph continuing from column one, sentence four reads: ...guns and flee. You should flee to the Kingdom of Thailand if you do not want to join in the fight with the resistance movement. Do not fight... (providing additional sentence)

Same paragraph, last sentence reads: ...Samdech Sihanouk's army.

But if you... (deleting paragraphs one and two)

Paragraph four, last sentence reads: ...to defend the people. (deleting words on Khmer Rouge and deleting following paragraph)

Page 41, column one, paragraph two, sentence one reads: ...Therefore, any of... (deleting first sentence)

Paragraph three, sentence two reads: ...flee the country. You should flee to the Kingdom of Thailand and take refuge there, or to the side... (providing additional words)

Indonesia

Alatas Refuses Comment on Sihanouk Resignation

BK2501101490 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0912 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Jakarta, Jan. 25 (OANA-ANTARA)—Foreign Minister and concurrently co-chairman of the International Conference on Cambodia (ICC) Ali Alatas here on Thursday [25 January] declined to comment on Prince Norodom Sihanouk's withdrawal as leader of the Cambodian resistance group. Urged by reporters to comment on Sihanouk's withdrawal, Alatas said "It is better not to give any comments but I will wait for further developments".

AFP reported from Beijing on Wednesday that Prince Sihanouk had withdrawn as leader of the Cambodian resistance group due to the increasing hostility against him.

In a statement, he said that he would not attend the international conference or inter-Cambodian talks on the future of his country. According to Alatas, the meeting among the Cambodian factions, Vietnam, Laos, ASEAN, Australia and France will probably be held in the last week of February at the Hotel Indonesia, Jakarta.

The meeting will be held in the framework of the ICC in Paris and new Australian proposal on United Nations' participation in the settlement of the conflict will be the main topic of discussions.

Formal invitations to the participants of the informal meeting in Jakarta have been sent through telex, Alatas said.

Meanwhile, in his statement Sihanouk also stressed that he would not make any contacts with reporters, diplomats or politicians, "except with my friends in the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea)".

However, Sihanouk said that he would continue to hold the post of "the official head of state of Cambodia", adding that his overthrow by General Lon Nol in a coup in March 1970 "was truly illegal".

In his statement, Sihanouk said the enmity against him had been increasing since the failure of the ICC in Paris in August 1989. He further said that the enmity had even worsened after the Khmer Rouge had continuously booked important and strategic victories since October 1989 in the fight against the Vietnamese troops and their stooges.

Alatas Discusses East-West Detente, ASEAN

BK1901112590 Jakarta ANTARA in English
0945 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Bogor, Jan. 19 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has said that the East-West detente has put polarization and imbalance in the North-South relations in prominence as global problems which have not yet been overcome.

"In facing external challenges due to transition towards a new international order, ASEAN is required to be always on the alert", the foreign minister said at the second dialogue of Indonesian-Malaysian youth leaders here on Thursday [18 January].

To face these challenges, ASEAN in its declaration at the third summit in Manila in 1987, had expressed its determination to enhance the level of solidarity and cooperation as a cohesive and dynamic regional organization in facing various problems whether they pertain to inter-ASEAN interests or between ASEAN and parties outside the ASEAN region.

The Asia-Pacific region, he said, particularly the East-Asian littoral countries, had recorded a very rapid growth and socio-economic progress in the last few years. Moreover, he said, the rapid growth and progress had taken place in the framework of ever growing interaction and economic interdependency among the countries in this region.

Calculating the interaction and interdependency process in the years to come, it is certain that it will continue to develop and consequently will cause changes in the trade and investment schemes, in the flow of funds and technology and in the comparative advantage of the countries in this region.

On the other hand, the ASEAN countries have from the onset been aware that besides the existing opportunities, there are also setbacks which can slow down beneficial development in this region, and even become potential sources of new conflicts, if not tackled wisely, Ali Alatas said.

On the Cambodian problem, the Indonesian foreign minister contradicted the opinion that the Cambodian problem was the uniting factor in inter-ASEAN cooperation.

If the Cambodian problem could be settled, inter-ASEAN cooperation could certainly be further developed for mutual benefit, he added.

The second dialogue of Indonesian-Malaysian youth leaders is attended by 40 participants from Malaysia and 80 from Indonesia and will last until Saturday.

Alatas Regrets Malaysia Hanging Drug Offender

BK1901123590 Jakarta ANTARA in English
1147 GMT 19 Jan 90

[Text] Jakarta, Jan. 19 (OANA/ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on Friday [19 January] expressed the hope that the friendly relations between Indonesia and Malaysia were strong enough to withstand the impact of the execution of Basri Masse who had been hanged for possession of drugs in Kota Kinabalu Friday.

In a written statement released to the press here Alatas said that as citizens "We are sad and regret that all efforts made by the Indonesian Government have failed and that Basri Masse was executed."

As a lawyer, he said, he believed that various aspects of the law applied to the case had not been fully consistent with general legal norms. He also thought that if a deeper study at an earlier stage had been made, several mitigating circumstances could have been found. He said, he was making this statement without intending to interfere in Malaysia's judiciary process and reaffirmed that "We understand and respect the legal system prevailing in Malaysia, which after all differs from Indonesia's".

The foreign minister also said that to all efforts, through diplomatic channels and appeals by Indonesia, Malaysia had replied that legal efforts had been made and that Basri Masse had been given the opportunity to pursue all recourses open to the courts of law from the lower state court to the supreme court and the pardon institute.

Alatas Opens Seminar on South China Sea Dispute

BK2201115890 Jakarta ANTARA in English
0928 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Denpasar, Jan 22 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia has taken the initiative to turn the South China Sea dispute into a mutually beneficial and constructive cooperation between the countries involved, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has said.

The initiative takes the form of an informal seminar held by the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry with the cooperation of the Centre for the Study of the Archipelagic Concept, Legal, and Development Affairs, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Kuta, Bali, Monday [22 January].

Ali Alatas, when opening the seminar which was attended by representatives from the ASEAN member countries and Canada, said the South China Sea is a strategic and important region in international shipping, particularly on the lanes through the Indian Ocean. He reminded that the seminar should not concentrate too much on the conflict, because at the moment there are overlapping claims over the Paracels and Spratly Islands from several countries, including China and Vietnam.

Ali Alatas hoped the three-day seminar would achieve cooperation in various fields, such as in navigation, management of natural resources, communication, and research. Indonesia has in fact no direct interest in the South China Sea, but is trying to achieve a peaceful solution, he added.

Alatas also hoped the major countries which use the South China Sea as well as the other countries concerned would contribute to the settlement of the conflict.

In the meantime, former Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja told the press he was optimistic the South China Sea zone could be converted from a conflict-prone area into zone of cooperation. Hasyim Jalal, in charge of the Foreign Office's Division for Training and Development, reported that the seminar discussed things such as fisheries, shipping, communication, and the mechanism for cooperation in the South China Sea.

Soviet Deputy Chairman Ibragimov Continues Visit

Discusses Increased Economic Ties

BK2201094690 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 19 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The Soviet Union and Indonesia yesterday agreed to make concerted efforts to improve economic cooperation by increasing trade, establishing industrial joint ventures in both countries, resuming air links, and easing restrictions on their people's visits.

"Delegations of both countries expressed commitment to implementing the cooperation agreement signed by President Suharto and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow last September," Coordinating Minister for Economic, Financial and Industrial Affairs Radius Prawiro told reporters after leading a group of Indonesian ministers in a 1.5-hour meeting with visiting Soviet Vice President Mirzaolim Ibragimovich Ibragimov at the State Guesthouse here.

The Indonesian delegation consisted of Radius, Agriculture Minister Wardoyo, Industry Minister Hartarto, Forestry Minister Hasyrul Harahap, Trade Minister Arifin M. Siregar, Junior Minister of Trade J. Sudrajad Jiwandono and Cooperatives Minister Bustanil Arifin, while the Soviet delegation consisted of Ibragimov, Vladimir Nikolayevich Morozov, counsellor of the department of Southeast Asia and the Pacific of the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry; Shukurulla Rakmatovich Marsaidov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the planning committee of the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan; Tursun Abdiraimovich Abdiraimov, chief of the department of foreign relations of the Council of Ministers; Yuriy Andreyevich Plekhanov, consultant of the Department of International Relations; Shanazar Masharipovich Masharipov, deputy director general of V/O [expansion unknown] Uzbekinlorg; and Soviet Ambassador Vladimir M. Semenov.

The meeting was held after a one-hour meeting between President Suharto and Vice President Ibragimov at the Merdeka Palace.

Radius explained that Indonesia, under the economic cooperation, would import industrial raw materials, such as pellets, scrap iron and cotton and materials used for agricultural activities such as fertilizer.

The Soviet delegation would soon announce the list of goods that the Soviet Union would import from Indonesia, he said.

"At the first stage of the trade cooperation, the export and import promotion will be conducted between Indonesia and Uzbekistan," said Radius.

He said Ibragimov, who was also President of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Uzbekistan, invited executives of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) to visit the republic to study which agricultural and industrial products could be exchanged.

Radius said Indonesian companies had planned to set up at least 18 industrial joint ventures with their Soviet partners to process Indonesian raw materials in Uzbekistan.

The joint ventures would produce, among other things, palm oil and textiles that would be sold in the Soviet Union and other countries, he added.

He said some Soviet companies would also establish industrial plants jointly with Indonesian partners to produce tea and peat in Indonesia.

The minister said the Soviet delegation offered to provide technical assistance in the development of silk worms and the production of silk fabrics.

The delegation invited Indonesians to learn the technology of soil production in Uzbekistan, which could also send experts to Indonesia, he said.

Radius said both delegations also agreed to resume the air links between the two countries which were abandoned a few years ago following the alleged involvement of a representative of the Soviet Aeroflot airline in espionage activities.

"For the Indonesian government, there is no problem for the renewal of an air agreement between the two countries," he stated, adding that such an agreement would be worked out soon by the airlines of the two countries.

Minister/State Secretary Murdiono, who together with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas accompanied Suharto in the meeting with Ibragimov, said Indonesia would likely hire aircraft from Aeroflot to transport its haj pilgrims in the coming season.

He explained that Indonesia would prefer to hire Aeroflot's aircraft because Garuda Indonesia would be needed to serve travelers domestically during the season which would coincide with holidays.

Radius said the two delegations also agreed to work out an agreement on immigration affairs, which would ease restrictions on the visits of the two countries' peoples.

"A memorandum of understanding on immigration affairs will be signed by officials of the foreign ministries of the two countries in the near future," he said.

According to Murdiono, the Soviet deputy foreign minister was scheduled to arrive here on Monday to discuss ways of speeding up visa processing.

When asked whether Soviet visitors would no longer be subject to security clearance, Radius said "the memorandum of understanding would substantially ease existing restrictions on the visits of the Soviets to Indonesia."

Tours Bali Resorts

BK2201065990 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0700 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Mirzaolin Ibragimov, Soviet deputy chairman [of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium] and concurrently chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of Uzbekistan, and his entourage today toured several tourist resorts in Bali, including Batu Bulan and Pura Besakih. During the tour, Ibragimov was accompanied by Coordinating Minister for Economics, Finance, Industry, and Development Supervision Radius Prawiro and Bali Governor Ida Bagus Oka.

Yono Susanto, Denpasar-based Radio Republik Indonesia correspondent reports:

[Begin Susanto recording] His Excellency Ibragimov and his wife enjoyed fresh air and had lunch at the Tampak Siring Palace. The Soviet leader from Uzbekistan and his wife showed their appreciation of the natural beauty around the palace. At 1000 this morning [0300 GMT], the state visitors, accompanied by Coordinating Minister Radius Prawiro, Bali Governor Ida Bagus Oka, and their wives, watched the Barong Dance performance at Batu Bulan, Gianyar, for an hour. The Soviet visitors were able to understand the performance because the Bali governor and his wife explained the details of the dance to them through an interpreter. After that, the Soviet visitors proceeded to Pura Besakih in Karang Asem, located 60 km east of Denpasar. The Soviet visitors admired the architecture of the Pura Besakih shrine. During the journey from Batu Bulan to Pura Besakih, the Bali governor briefed the visitors on the history of the Pura Besakih shrine. Ibragimov's visit to Bali was not only for sightseeing, but also for learning Bali's success in promoting tourism. Ibragimov said Uzbekistan would also promote tourism by presenting its varied cultural heritage.

Bali Governor Ida Bagus Oka will host a dinner banquet in honor of the Soviet visitors at the Pertamina Cottage in Kuta this evening. The banquet will be followed by a cultural performance. On the last day of their stay in Bali tomorrow, the Soviet visitors will visit [name indistinct] in Gianyar before leaving for Medan, North Sumatera. [end recording]

Visits Factory in Medan

BK2301131090 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Mirzaolin Ibragimov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of Uzbekistan, visited a rubber industries factory in Medan today. [passage omitted]

During the visit, the Soviet leader and his entourage were accompanied by Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for economics, finance, industry, and development supervision; North Sumatera Governor Raja Inal Siregar; and other officials of the North Sumatera regional government. Ibragimov also met with Indonesian businessmen grouped in the Rubber, Cocoa, and Palm Oil Entrepreneur Association in Medan this afternoon.

Ends Visit, Departs 24 Jan

BK2401094990 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0753 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Medan, Jan 24 (OANA/ANTARA)—Vice President of the Soviet Union/President of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan Mirzaolin Ibragimovich Ibragimov left this capital of North Sumatera Province Wednesday [24 January] at the end of his week-long visit to Indonesia. He flew on an Indonesian plane to Singapore where he would change planes on his way back home.

Coordinating Minister for Economy, Finance and Industry Radius Prawiro was on hand along with North Sumatera Governor Raja Inal Siregar at Polonia Airport to send the Soviet guest off. Vice President Ibragimov came to Indonesia to discuss possibilities for boosting trade between the two countries.

Coordinating Minister Radius Prawiro said Indonesia-Soviet trade had been very limited due to procedural difficulties. The value of Indonesian imports from the Soviet Union amounted to only 40 million US dollars while its exports to that country reached only 50 million US dollars a year.

The two countries are now working to overcome the difficulties with the expectation of stepping up two-way trade to around one billion US dollars annually, Radius Prawiro said.

Commentary on Visit

BK2501023590 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Mirzaolin Ibragimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and president of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan, who was accompanied by his wife on a visit to Indonesia beginning 17 January, ended his visit yesterday. While in Indonesia, the state guest held talks with President Suharto and Coordinating Minister for Economy, Finance, and Industry Radius Prawiro.

During talks with the head of state on 18 January, Ibragimov was told that Indonesia respects the Soviet Union for resolving its internal issues through means which are conducive to the Soviet community. As a follow-up to President Suharto's visit to the Soviet Union from 7 to 12 September last year, in particular to Uzbekistan, the two leaders agreed to increase bilateral trade relations through concrete steps. The two leaders considered President Suharto's visit to the Soviet Union as not only an historical event but also as a step toward increasing bilateral cooperation in the future.

After meeting with Ibragimov yesterday, Radius Prawiro said that Indonesia will increase its industrial exports to the Soviet Union in 1990, particularly to Uzbekistan. On the other hand, Indonesia will import from Moscow raw materials for its steel industry, chemicals, silk, and cotton. After accompanying the Uzbekistan leader to talks held with north Sumatera Chamber of Trade and Commerce officials in Medan on Tuesday [23 January], Minister Radius said three accords were reached during the talks. The three accords are: first, to implement direct Indonesia-Uzbekistan trade; second, to utilize the Soviet Union's banking facilities in correspondence with banks in Indonesia; and finally, to use U.S. dollars in all bilateral trade transactions.

Viewing the accords reached, it can be summarized that Ibragimov's visit to Jakarta has brought about meaningful achievements, particularly in improving bilateral economic relations and cooperation with Uzbekistan.

Although such achievements are only on paper at this time, and considering the reforms taking place in the Soviet Union, the above steps are greatly needed to improve the socioeconomic situation of the Soviet people. Indonesia, with its principle of mutually beneficial trading, considers the above steps as not only important for broadening its domestic products base, but also for increasing the country's exports.

Undoubtedly, with the two countries' respect for one another's sovereignty, the realization of these accords will further improve the well-being of the Soviet and Indonesian peoples and, in particular, pave the way toward greater world peace.

Laos

'Hundreds' Flee to Border To Escape Shelling

BK2501010990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Nan—Hundreds of Laotians, mostly ethnic Hmong, have massed along the Thai-Laotian border after Pathet Lao forces lanuched a heavy assault on right-wing resistance guerrillas opposite here, border sources said yesterday.

Heavy artillery shelling reportedly raged throughout the past week in attacks on resistance positions across the border in an area declared a "liberated zone" by the guerrillas who late last year announced the formation of a "Revolutionary Provincial Democratic Government" (RPDG).

The Laotians who fled to the border were mainly from Phon-gna Village and its vicinity which were under the control of the Lao resistance forces.

Border sources said more than 300 artillery shells landed in Phon-gna Village where resistance troops and civilians live, but cause only slight damage as the area is in rugged mountains and covered with high trees.

Former Cabinet member of the defunct Royal Lao Government, Tiao Phaya Louang Ou Thong Souvannavong, who was appointed prime minister of the RPDG, told the BANGKOK POST yesterday that although the civilians fled Phon-gna, his resistance forces were continuing guerrilla warfare against Pathet Lao forces in the area.

ASIAWEEK Cited on Rebel Group's Claims

BK2401144490 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 24 Jan 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 24 (OANA-KPL)—The ASIAWEEK in its issue of Jan 12, 1990 has published an article with a headline "A Government on Paper". It made a comment on the pronouncement of the so-called revolutionary provisional government of Laos as recently claimed by a Lao rebel group in exile, which declares itself as "the high command of the Lao National Liberation Army".

The article is quoted as saying as follows:

"A brave pronouncement, but it rang extremely hollow. There was no wild rejoicing nor, despite the guns that bristled above many lean shoulders, was there any artillery fire heralding an assault on Vientiane. Far from it: The main target was in fact Bangkok—cheekily, the resistance group had invited journalists from the Thai capital. Even as their stories appeared on the inside pages of Thai newspapers (the fall of sterner communist regimes took front page), diplomats were unanimous in their verdict: the "revolutionary government" was an empty claim.

"There's no reason to believe the statement", said one European envoy in Vientiane. "We don't take it seriously," noted another. "There are no signs of extra security precautions or travel restrictions in Laos. There's no sign of anything wrong at all," said a Western diplomat in the Laotian capital.

"This kind of dramatic announcement has no basis. It's suggestive of people seeking to publicize their cause and appeal to parties outside Laos or Thailand not well-informed about the real situation. It's a desperation tactic, a fund-raising maneuver and a publicity stunt by a fragmented organization trying to stay alive". Even other resistance groups were doubtful. The leader of one told a Bangkok newspaper that the new organization was "only a government on paper".

"Vientiane was unfazed. Over the past couple of years its communist leaders have been improving relations with neighboring Thailand, where the resistance takes shelter. Ambassador to Bangkok Khamphan Simmalavong firmly denied the existence of the new government, pointing out that this was not the first such event. An early attempt came in 1976 when a group announced a revolutionary administration from Paris. France quickly condemned it. This time there was no official judgement from other countries. They just ignored it....

"In a written statement to ASIAWEEK, "Premier" Outhong Souvannavong said: "Since we proclaimed our revolutionary government, more than 50,000 persons including soldiers and civilians have joined our troops in our liberated zones". That is doubtless an overstated boast, as are his claims to have ambushed many government trucks and soldiers, and observers believe the group has far fewer than the 8,000 fighters it says it has....

"The revolutionary government" has never had the kind of diplomatic, financial and military support its Cambodian counterparts have commanded. The main reason is that there has never been any debate over international recognition of the Vientiane government, which maintains relations with Washington, Peking and Tokyo. Moreover the Laotian resistance is hopelessly divided.

"Today the resistance fights mainly in platoon-sized missions, capturing weapons from government troops or spreading propaganda in remote areas....

"Vientiane lined up behind Hanoi as the Cambodia deadlock set in 1979 and the Chinese started backing Laotian resistance groups and promoting their cooperation with the Khmer Rouge. But Vientiane continued to stamp on its opponents, crushing the southern resistance into little more than bands of smugglers.

Finally, its new friendship with China in the last two years has ended Peking's liaison with the opposition, while the thaw with Thailand has made the long western border safer....

"Vientiane is making changes that promise greater stability. A constitution, promised for 1991, will establish a proper set of laws. Reduction of state domination in production and business and opening up to greater foreign trade, while far from complete, are providing more opportunities for Laotians to prosper. And even if those efforts fall short of pleasing everyone, resistance success looks less and less likely...."

Saravane People, Forces Receive SRV Medals

BK2401151590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] A ceremony to confer Qian Cong and Chien Cong Victory Medals and Certificates of Commendation from the SRV State Council and Defense Ministry on Lao units, cadres, combatants, militiamen, and people of Saravane Province was held at the Ministry of National Defense on the evening of 20 January. The conferment of the Victory Medals and Certificates of Commendation was made in recognition of their outstanding contribution to military cooperation between Laos and Vietnam, in particular their roles in defeating the exiled Vietnamese reactionaries under the command of Houang Co Minh in 1987 and Tran Quang Do in 1989.

Eighty-eight Victory Medals were presented to Saravane Province. Six units and three individuals received Chien Cong Medals, Third Class. Five units and 16 individuals were given Qian Cong Medals, First Class, and 32 other individuals received Qian Cong Medals, Third Class. Thirty-three Certificates of Commendation and International Obligation Trophies were also handed out during the ceremony.

Representing the SRV party, Government, and Defense Ministry, Nguyen Xuan, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, handed the Victory Medals to Comrade Khamphoui Keoboualapha, member of the party Central Committee and Secretariat and chairman of Saravane Provincial Administrative Committee. Present at the ceremony were Comrade Major General Choummali Sai-gnason, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and first deputy defense minister; Comrade Maisouk Saisompheng, member of the party Central Committee, minister, head of the party Central Committee's Office and Office of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy chief of the Foreign Relations Board of the party

Central Committee and deputy foreign minister; and other comrades from the military and police leadership and cadres concerned.

In his address, Comrade Major General Osakan Thammatheva, member of the party Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and head of the General Political Department of the Lao People's Army, on behalf of the government and Ministry of National Defense of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, expressed profound gratitude to the SRV party, Government, and Defense Ministry for having accorded such high honor to the Lao Army and people in general and the Armed Forces and people in Saravane Province in particular. The conferment of the Victory Medals signified the traditions of special militant alliance between the two countries and armies of Laos and Vietnam and greatly boosted morale for the country's revolutionary task. It further increased special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties, states, defense ministries, and peoples.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives Soviet Peace Delegation

BK2501104290 Vientiane KPL in English 0920 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 25 (KPL)—Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], received here on Jan 24 a delegation of the Soviet Peace Committee led by its Vice-President Masline, who is also first vice-president of the Soviet Peace Fund and president of the Soviet-Lao Friendship Association.

The host and the guest discussed many issues concerning the international and internal situation, and the promotion of the cooperation and mutual assistance between the peoples of the two countries.

The Soviet delegation left here for home yesterday afternoon ending a one-week-long visit to the Lao PDR.

Philippines

Grenade Attack on Davao USIS Office Reported

HK2501083990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Unidentified men threw grenades and sprayed bullets at the United States Information Service [USIS] office in Davao City this morning. According to Davao City Police Chief Lieutenant Colonel Franco Calida, three armed men also did the same to three government agencies, including the Land Transportaion Office, National Telecommunications Commission, and the Talobo Police Headquarters. No injuries or deaths were reported in the simultaneous blasts. Today's attack was the secnod on the USIS building in the past month. A similar incident took place on 20 December at dawn. Authorities claim that communist rebels could be responsible for the two incidents.

Column Views Speculations on Gates' Visit

HK2201101790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Jan 90 p 5

[From "Political Tidbits" column by Belinda Olivares-Cunanan: "PMA Philippine Military Academy Cadets-Civilians' Good Idea"]

[Text] A lot of speculation is being made in the local media that the recent visit of Robert Gates, U.S. deputy assistant for national security affairs and concurrently deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was aimed at convincing President Aquino to hold snap elections soon, as her hold on government allegedly is very uncertain. Apparently, as Press Secretary Buddy Gomez pointed out, this speculation is being fueled by a rightist group in the U.S., whose position on the Philippines seems to be identical to that of the Nacionalista Party, particularly Vice President Salvador H. Laurel's. One name that has been quite active abroad in pushing for a snap election here is a Georgetown professor named Ray Cline, a former CIA deputy director whom Ambassador to Washington Emmanuel Pelaez has identified as being quite vicious in his attacks on the Aquino administration. Cline's links with Laurel are quite strong, which makes me wonder if Cline is really conversant with the situation here; if he were, he would know the kind of credibility the Vice President commands here. Helping Cline's group is the Washington-based public relations firm of Black, Manafort, Kelly & Stone, which the Marcos regime had utilized; it is said to draw from the Nacionalista Party a monthly retainer of $80,000 to build up stories adverse to the Philippine government in the U.S. media and official circles.

We all know that the principals these groups represent here are of little credibility, but out there in the U.S., their onslaughts can wreak damage. Ambassador Pelaez admitted to us in a recent conversation here that he is handicapped by the lack of support from here to counteract adverse publicity about the Philippine government abroad. The same report about government losing out in the propaganda front filters to us from other parts of the world, such as Europe. This makes me wonder what the government is doing about this problem. I would suggest that debonaire, bow-tie wearing Press Secretary Buddy Gomez sit down with various government agencies to address this problem.

In a recent conversation, Defense Undersecretary Eddie Ermita told me about the stepped-up regional peace and order council meetings that the defense and local governments departments have conducted in Pampanga, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro and recently in Baguio. Ermita notes that such meetings are not only an excellent means of linking up government (civilian and military) with the various sectors of local society, but they also constitute a good feedback mechanism from the people. For instance, he notes that in the open forum that

followed the briefings by the top government officials, 70 percent of the questions ran according to a pattern everywhere, and much of them revolve around the concern of the people that a future coup be prevented. "Why can't the military control the situation, if it knows a coup plot is being hatched?"

Ermita recounted that during the Baguio peace and order council meeting, one of the significant things that surfaced concerned the peaceful situation in Sagada, Mt. Province. The prevailing peace resulted from the fact that the people, led by Bishop Longid, decided to create a "zone of peace" by calling on both the military and the NPAs [New People's Army] to leave the area, with the peace keeping entrusted only to the local police force. Ermita recalls that Bishop Longid had made representations with the Defense Department on the idea, and it only shows that zones of peace can work if the people are determined. Now this model for peace in the Cordilleras is being eyed as a project for "special development concept."

Also, at the dialogue with PMA [Philippine Military Academy] students in Baguio, defense officials led by Secretary Ramos received a testimony from the cadet corps that they have not been and are not in support of the failed coup attempt. One cadet, in fact, earnestly, queried during the dialogue "how the military can be prevented from being involved in partisan politics and being politicized?" Ramos' lengthy answer may be summarized, Ermita said, in the military's realizing its proper role as a vital tool of government, and not another role it seeks to assign to itself.

Transfer of Camps to U.S. Bases Reconsidered

HK2401101990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 24 Jan 90 pp 1, 8

[By staff writer Julius Fortuna]

[Text] The Joint Executive-Legislative Bases Council had agreed to reconsider the plan to relocate military camps in Metro Manila to U.S. bases areas relinquished by the United States, after the defense department said it could trigger unrest among soldiers living in the camps. During the January 10 meeting of the council, Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis said the plan would be "upsetting" and might cause "a lot of speculation" among AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] officers and men who have acquired virtual landholding rights to the camp lands.

Various sources told the GLOBE that Justice Undersecretary Ramon J. Liwag had supported Gacis's assessment that the plan may only agitate the military further.

As a result, the 15 council members, in Joint Resolution No. 1, agreed to reconsider the plan until Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos presents his own recommendations.

Rep. Jose de Venecia (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Pangasinan), a member of the council and author of the transfer plan, said last month that the council had approved the proposal.

The plan, which was to be forwarded to President Aquino and Congress, is intended to keep Metro Manila out of the "war zone" as some officials had proposed after several residential areas in the vicinity of Camps Aguinaldo and Crame were damaged during the December Coup.

Under the plan, the government expects to raise P240 billion from the sale of the areas vacated by the military camps. The money would be used to finance priority projects and the conversion of the U.S. baselands and pay off part of the country's foreign debts.

However, the land has been donated to the government precisely to be used as military camps. A condition of the donation is that the land would revert back to the donor if it is no longer used as military camps.

Asked for comment, AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo said the AFP agrees in principle with the plan. But he said foot soldiers might be wary of losing their residential rights.

Retired Col. Pablo Gonzales, former spokesman of the Air Force, said the soldiers living inside Villamor Air Base would be "upset" with the plan, because "they have resided there for a long time."

He also said that generations of soldiers have virtually owned these lands while some have already rented out their houses to other people.

The sources said that during their January 10 meeting the council members also disagreed with De Venecia that the approval of the plan would help the Philippine panel in the bases exploratory talks get the psychological edge.

The sources also said that the council, headed by Undersecretary Ernesto Ordonez, had decided to restudy details of the relocation plan, this time including the opinion of the defense department.

In reaction to the report that the plan was approved last month, a justice department official warned that it might pose legal impediments since the Ortigas family donated a large part of the land on which the military camps now stand on condition that it would be used for military purposes.

Shortly after that, Francisco Ortigas Jr., head of the Ortigas company that donated the land, said that should the government push through with the plan, the company would get back the portion of the property it donated and buy back the portion that the government had bought.

Official on Nondelivery of U.S. Assistance

HK2301055990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jan 90 pp 1, 6

[By staff member Manny Mogato, with additional reports from Noli Cabantug, Chay Florentino, Lito Zulueta, and Teddy Molina]

[Text] A senior defense official yesterday said the Armed Forces only received a total of $1.3 million out of the $28 million in U.S. military assistance under the bases compensation package for 1988.

The money, the official said, was used to buy spare parts and other equipment for use in the maintenance of U.S.-made Huey and Bell helicopters.

He added the Americans have yet to deliver $10 million worth of helicopter gunships and $7 million worth of patrol craft escorts this year.

The official's claim was corroborated by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos who said he would ask his American counterpart, Richard Cheney, to hasten the implementation of the U.S. military assistance package to the Philippines.

Cheney is scheduled to visit the country next month as part of his Asian swing to meet defense chiefs in South Korea, Singapore and Japan.

Ramos said the delivery of goods was necessary because the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] is "refurbishing, reconsolidating after the bloody coup last December" in which the military had lost valuable weapons and hardware.

"I don't think we can benefit from it if there will be more delays," Ramos said, adding he also voiced this same concern in his talk with Robert Gates, deputy national security adviser of President Bush.

In Malacanang, President Aquino took issue with American media reports that the visits last week of Gates and U.S. Congressman Jim Kolbe were to impress upon her the need to get her house in order.

"Neither Gates nor Kolbe told me to keep my house in order and it's good they did not because that would have gotten a different comment from me," Mrs. Aquino told a press conference.

She clarified Gates' visit was to convey to her the continued support of the Bush Administration. She added that Gates wanted to have first-hand information of the situation now obtaining in the country.

This developed as the foreign office asked the National Economic Development Authority (Neda) and the finance department for a status report on the disbursement of the Economic Support Fund (ESF) under the bases agreement with the U.S.

The move followed a statement from Senate Majority Floor Leader Teofisto Guingona that only $1.1 billion of the $1.8 billion promised by the U.S. had been received by the Philippines."

At the defense department, the senior official described as "too slow" the delivery of U.S. military assistance, "It normally takes two years for them to deliver whatever equipment and material we would ask from them," he added.

He cited as an example the AFP request for $32.5 million worth of engineering equipment and trucks, which was made in 1986 and delivered only last year.

Lately, a new problem surfaced when the U.S. decided to reduce its military assistance to the country due to budgetary constraints.

The U.S. had promised $200 million in military assistance program for fiscal year 1990 but the American Congress had appropriated only $160 million.

Editorial Urges Delay in U.S. Bases Talks

HK2201104790 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 16 Jan 90 p 10

[Editorial: "The Bases Talks"]

[Text] Senators Neptali Gonzales and Juan Ponce Enrile, representing the Senate Majority and minority respectively, are one in asking the administration to reconsider the holding of talks with the United States on the future of the military bases, as a token of protest against Washington's failure to comply with dollar commitments under the Manglapus-Shultz agreement. There is something wishful in this proposal, but it makes a lot of sense.

Wishful, because after the U.S. Air Force sent in two F-4 Phantom jets to rescue the Aquino government from falling into the hands of the military reformists during the December 1st coup attempt, Mrs Aquino may have lost all bargaining chips with the U.S. and will now do whatever the U.S. suggests. She would sign a blank piece of paper if Washington said that was the price of saving her government.

But supposing she slips in her bathroom, survives it after losing her memory of what happened to her from February 1986 to December 1989, and remembers only that the U.S. has failed to deliver on its commitments, then she would have every reason to put the forthcoming talks on indefinite hold.

Under the Manglapus-Shultz agreement, the Aquino government expects to receive a portion of $481 million that has been committed; that has not been received. Under a separate commitment, the U.S. was supposed to have pledged $200 million as contribution to the Philippine Assistance Program, to which Japan and the European Community have pledged infinitely bigger sums. This U.S. commitment was scaled down to $160 million,

and despite assurances made to Mrs Aquino during her visit to the U.S. last year that the $40 million would be restored, no such restoration has taken place. These delays are sufficient reason for the Aquino regime to delay the talks. But there are other larger, reasons why it may be prudent for the government to take its time on the negotiations.

Developments in other parts of the world, notably in Central and Eastern Europe, have so affected the shape of global politics that what were once considered requirements of global deterrence may have become unwanted and unnecessary military burdens. The disintegration of the Soviet empire and the new role the Soviet Union has assumed in world affairs, are bound to have a lasting effect on the U.S. military facilities in the Philippines. For a long time the Soviet bogey had been the primary justification for the continued U.S. military presence. Not China, not Japan, not Vietnam, not North Korea, but the USSR. With the collapse of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe and with reported signs of a possible Soviet pullout from Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam, the continued U.S. military presence in the Philippines may have lost its justification.

Of course it is argued that the U.S. facilities in the country had long preceded the Soviet presence in Vietnam and that there are other reasons why they remain. Whatever these reasons, recent experience has shown that the Philippines needs to be liberated from American protection if it is to become a truly independent and sovereign country. State sovereignty must become a reality to the Filipinos and their government, and this cannot be achieved for so long as it plays host to the military forces of its former colonizer whose government in Washington continues to regard it as a neocolony.

There is reason then why talks between the two countries should not be rushed now, but should wait for the proper time when feelings, both good and bad, generated by the U.S. role in the last failed coup and the U.S. inability to deliver on its commitments to the Aquino government shall have subsided. The issue of the bases, being so important to both countries, although from different points of view, must be decided under the most sober circumstances, not on the basis of unreasoning friendship or blind animosities, but on the basis of real and defensible national interests.

De Villa Gives Update on Counterinsurgency Drive

HK2401040790 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 24 Jan 90 p 3

[By Dario B. Agnote]

[Text] General Renato S. De Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff, yesterday said the military will step up its manhunt for the six-man core group of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) as a new coup will continue to loom as long as these renegade military officers are at large and their civilian supporters are not indicted.

De Villa also said he has recommended a reward of no less than P1 million for the capture of each core group member, namely former Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan, former Navy Capt. Felix Tuingan, former Lt. Col. Vic Batac, former Lt. Col. Eduardo Kapunan, dismissed Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. Zumel and former Brig. Gen. Eduardo Abenina.

"While they continue to be outside, they can continue to scheme and plan, recruit people, seek support from their sources and provide opportunities for ambitious people to use them," De Villa told radio station DZXL in an interview.

De Villa stressed the need to quickly arrest the six "coup plotters" and their supporters to prevent another coup.

De Villa also said the war against communist rebels suffered a setback because of last month's coup attempt after troops had scored major successes in rolling back the 21-year-old rebellion.

De Villa said that before last month's coup attempt, the rebel New People's Army had declined form a 1985 high olf 25,000 fighters to about 19,000 and that the number of rebel-controlled villages had been reduced by 21 percent.

"Before the coup, we at the Armed Forces had a very clear assessment that the communist movement in the Philippines was collapsing," De Villa said.

"But we were disrupted by this coup. We will continue our program until we see our goal—that within two or three years we can already say that the communist movement would cease to be a great security threat in the country."

De Villa said the communist guerillas' inability to step up attacks during the Dec. 1-9 coup attempt showed the rebels' disarray. He said the communists' image had been tarnished by the collapse of Marxist governments in Eastern Europe.

De Villa challenged Honasan to "return and face the charges against him without conditions."

"(If Honasan) is the true soldier he claims to be, he must acknowledge the damage he has wronght on the country."

During the three-hour radio interview, De Villa assured the public that all rebel military officers and personnel involved in the bloody December 1 putsch will be punished.

"The regulations are clear—any offender must be investigated and, if warranted, should stand trial in a general court martial," he said.

He even threatened to resign if there is any whitewash in the investigation of the failed coup, the sixth and most serious against the Aquino government since 1986.

The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines], De Villa said, is "merely a cooperating agency in the hunt and eventual prosecution of the rebels' civilian supporters.

The military, he said, has jurisdiction only over military personnel and it is the Department of Justice and its law enforcement arm, the National Bureau of Investigation, that have jurisdiction over cases of civilian supporters.

De Villa also denied allegations that there was failure of intelligence in detecting the failed December coup. He said the military correctly predicted the size of the rebel forces but admitted it was surprised by the alliance between the RAM and the Marcos loyalists.

De Villa was apparently reacting to Abenina's claim, contained in a letter to Senator Joseph Estrada, that Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and De Villa were caught flat-footed by the military rebellion.

Abenina said the two officials had no inkling of the coup until it was mounted.

De Villa Says Military Reforms Will Take Time

HK2301054790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 23 Jan 90 p 6

[By staff writer David Borje]

[Text] Reforms in the military cannot be completed within the remaining two years of the Aquino term because the 20-year Marcos regime left too deep a mark on the establishment, Gen. Renato de Villa said yesterday.

The Armed Forces chief of staff was one of three main speakers who expressed their views on the topic "Reflections on the Role of the Military in a Third World Democracy" at the rest house of Senate President Jovita Salonga in Pansol, Laguna.

De Villa said the totalitarian regime of Ferdinand Marcos had left a deep mark on the military establishment in terms of favoritism and undeserved promotions. But he gave assurances that reforms and a "reorientation program" were being pursued by the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] command.

Salonga and Fr. Joaquin Bernas, a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, said they were optimistic that military reforms could be achieved.

Touching on the subject of coup attempts, De Villa said most of the leaders of the December Coup would not stand the "test of morality."

He also declared that 70 percent of the AFP personnel would oppose another coup attempt, disputing the claims of the December Coup leaders that the same percentage sympathized with the rebel soldiers.

Brig. Gen. Arturo Enrile, superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), gave assurances of the PMA cadets' loyalty to the Constitution.

Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, chief of the National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC) who led the defense of the Capital Region against the rebel forces during the December Coup, also reiterated his loyalty to the Constitution.

The AFP officers present predicted that once the rebels had wrested state power, they would make sure that they would continue enjoying the benefits of a military regime.

Criminal Charges Filed Against Enrile, Others

HK2501055190 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Criminal charges were filed against Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, representative Maria Clara Lobregat, and two others in connection with the alleged misuse of some 300 million pesos in a coconut levy fund in 1976. The charges were filed by Solicitor General Franciso Chavez with the Presidential Commission on Good Government. Charged with Enrile and Lobregat were (Hermigildo Losayco) and (Jose Elizer Jr). Chavez said they were members of the board of directors of the Philippine Coconut Authority. They were charged for the illegal donation of some 300 million pesos in coconut levy funds for the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Chavez explained that the levy was collected from coconut farmers for the integrated growth and development of the coconut industry.

Rebels Honasan, Zumel Elude Military Dragnet

HK2201122390 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Capital Region Command Chief Alexander Aguirre today confirmed reports that two leading rebel soldiers escaped military dragnet when operatives raided an area in Makati. Former Army Lieutenant Colonel Gringo Honasan and former Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel eluded capture. They escaped through the house's back door. Aguirre said that Honasan and Zumel were scheduled to meet with other leaders of the renegade soldiers. This information was gathered from private citizens.

In a related report, authorities are investigating a rebel leader arrested by the Philippine Constabulary-Criminal Investigation Service operatives. Lieutenant Ladislao Ebuen, who is on the list of most wanted coup plotters, was captured. He was arrested yesterday at Tahanan Village, Paranaque, Metro Manila. He used to be assigned to the Clark Air Base Command and is one of the leaders of the failed December coup.

Moro Front Leader Nur Misauri Gives Interview

PM2401122890 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 18 Jan 90 p 3

[Interview with Nur Misauri, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front in the Philippines, by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Sinusi in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sinusi] How are the Muslims led by the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF], and what pressures are they exposed to?

[Misauri] As you know, Muslims in the Philippines are living under colonialism and enjoy no freedom. Their life is neglected and they are facing problems unknown to the outside world. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sinusi] How do you view the Kingdom's stance on the conditions to which Muslims in the South Philippines are exposed?

[Misauri] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—may God protect it—provides major support for the MNLF, especially politically and morally. As is known, the Kingdom represents the Islamic World and occupies the first place in the Islamic nation's leadership. All decisions issued regarding Muslims in the South Philippines were actually issued through the Kingdom's influence and that of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], which espouses that cause. The latter is based in Jeddah and pursues a policy similar to the kingdom's, devoting its interest to Islamic issues in general.

[Al-Sinusi] What will the MNLF ask at the ICO foreign ministers' conference when it is held?

[Misauri] Since the Philippine Government, under its policy, does not adhere or lean toward ICO resolutions, we will continue to demand our inalienable rights, whether through that organization or through other countries. We are part of the Islamic nation, and the organization must recognize our Islamic entity. So, we will urge the next ICO foreign ministers' conference to consider our application for membership of that Islamic organization. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sinusi] Why did South Philippine Muslims reject the referendum on the new law in the Philippines?

[Misauri] Because the law is opposed to ICO resolutions and the agreement concluded between the MNLF and the Philippine Government under ICO supervision. The government's policy aims to keep the ICO as an international organization separated from what is actually happening, in order to play down the importance of the cause. The government wants to turn it into an internal, rather than international, issue. Our cause requires international support, especially as it has obtained some level of international recognition from the ICO. The front is now a permanent observer in the organization, which is why the Philippine Government is working constantly to isolate the issue from the ICO. The front is demanding Muslims' rights. We advocate not war but peace, and peace must be based on the correct foundation. Muslims must obtain their rights, as did those who have liberated themselves in other countries to secure some kind of peace in their countries.

The problems of South Philippine Muslims cannot be resolved before our region is freed from the noose of colonialism. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sinusi] Can we say that you are heading toward a "peace" phase with the government?

[Misauri] We do not expect any hope of a peaceful solution between the government and the MNLF, because just a few days ago, the forces resumed their attacks on MNLF forces, both in the air and on the ground. The government has reinforced its 80,0000-strong forces in the south with a new 60,000-strong armed force, according to the Philippine Government's official statement.

MNLF Declares War Zones To Disrupt Elections

HK2201043490 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 22 Jan 90 pp 1, 10

[By Ali Macabalang]

[Text] Cotabato City—The Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] yesterday declared as "war zones" the provinces covered by the Muslim Mindanao Autonomous Region in an apparent bid to disrupt the Feb. 17 elections for leaders of the autonomous government.

The MNLF-Uttara Kutawato Revolutionary Committee, one of the Front's biggest state commands based in Maguindanao, also called for a boycott of the polls, calling the proposed autonomous government "unconstitutional."

But Brig. Gen. Gumercindo Yap, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, downplayed the MNLF threat, claiming an MNLF attempt to confront the military in battle at this time "will be suicidal."

The Muslim separatist group's call for a poll boycott also drew opposition from the local leadership of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines [IBP] Lawyer Macabangkit Lanto, newly elected IBP governor for Western Mindanao, said that "while we respect the MNLF call for boycott, we should respect more the people's right for freedom of choice and expression."

Considered war zones by the rebel group are the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, provinces in which there were majorities of affirmative votes in the last plebiscite on the creation of an autonomous region. A total of 13 provinces and nine cities in the South took part in the polls.

Ambil said the declaration of war zones and call for people's boycott of the polls have been premised on, among other reasons, the "unconstitutionality of the autonomous government which the national government

persisted on creating despite the rejection of the organic act by majority of the electorate."

Meanwhile, the Comelec office here reported that an average of 20 candidates will be contesting the three seats for district representatives in each district in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

The poll body listed 19 candidates for the regional assembly for the first district in Lanao del Sur; 22 in the second district; 21 in Maguindanao's first district; and 18 in the second district.

The race for regional governor is a close fight between former House Minority Floor Leader Ali Dimaporo and former Maguindanao Gov. Zacaria Candao. Abulkhayr Alonto, the standard bearer of the Nacionalista Party, has withdrawn from the race.

The post of vice governor post is contested by Benjamin Loong, running mate of Candao and a brother of Sulu Gov. Tupay Loong; Hussein Ututalong, Dimaporo's runningmate; and Alimbashir Edris of Lanao Umpia Party.

Military Discovers Aurora NPA Killing Fields

HK2401084990 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Jan 90 p 29

[By Ely Dante Solano]

[Text] Dipaculao, Aurora—Maj. Ferdinand M. Bocobo, commanding officer of the 56th Infantry (Matatag) City Batallion [IB] based in Palayan City said yesterday his men discovered NPA [New People's Army] killing fields in several Dipaculao barangays, Aurora province.

Bocobo said the discovery was the result of SOT (Special Operations Team) drives of his troops to intensify full scale manuevers against the NPAs in his area of jurisdiction in line with anti-insurgency campaign launched by Brig. Gen. Ernesto B. Calupig, commander of the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army.

Elements of the 56th IB upon orders of Bocobo conducted an exhumation of the body of three victims, one male and two females, in the presence of local and barangay officials. The male victim was identified as Reynaldo Gonzales y Dilim alias Ka [comrade] Reggie, single, 22, an NPA cadre and a resident of Maligaya, Dipaculao, Aurora, while the two female victims are still unidentified as of presstime.

Capt. Rodolfo Vergara, Civil Military Operations (CMO) chief of the 56th Infantry Battalion who was present during the exhumation said that the identify of Reynaldo Gonzales was confirmed by his mother and other officials of Maligaya. Dr. Arturo Parilla, Jr., the medical officer who conducted the autopsy found one (1) bullet hole on the skull of Gonzales.

Investigations made by Bocobo's intelligence operatives revealed that the mother of the victim received a letter from Reynaldo Ka Reggie manifesting his desire to surrender to military authorities. After receiving the message of his son, subsequently thereafter, Commander Butch (Freddie Ubongen) and Commander Dexter (Ferdinand Paraan) the former commanders of Reynaldo operating in Dipaculao contacted and informed her on the death of his son which according to Cmdrs. Butch and Freddie, the cause of Reynaldo's death was that the victim accidentaly shot himself (Reynaldo) by the latter's issued Cal. 38 revolver. However, military and civilian authorities in Aurora believed that Ka Reggie was summarily executed by his comrades upon knowing his desire to surrender to the government.

Bocobo, a lawyer and a product of PMA [Philippine Military Academy] Class '73 said that the military will file criminal charges in court against the perpetrators of the discovered NPA atrocities.

Commission Warns Against Anticommunist Seminars

HK2401034990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 24 Jan 90 p 7

[By staff writer Sammy Santos]

[Text] The Commission on Human Rights [CHR] warned the military yesterday against compelling villagers in rural areas to attend anti-communist "lectures" against their will.

CHR Chairman Mary Concepcion Bautista issued the warning following complaints from community leaders in Quezon province that they were being forced by the military to attend anticommunist seminars and were later being branded as "New People's Army [NPA] surrenderers."

"I strongly object to that," Bautista said, adding that she had called the attention of Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and Gen. Renato de Villa, Armed Forces chief, on the matter.

CHR sources told the GLOBE that a group of Quezon province villagers complained to the commission recently that they were forced to sign documents declaring themselves as "rebel sympathizers or surrenderers" after attending military-sponsored seminars in their communities.

The complainants, whose identities were withheld, claimed that their lives have been "unnecessarily endangered" from both the military and the NPA insurgents as a result. They also alleged that military authorities were forcing them assigned in Quezon province.

Bautista stressed, however, that the CHR was not objecting to the military's conducting anticommunist seminars in the provinces. She noted that the NPA rebels similarly engages in propaganda activities by holding "teach-ins" among villagers.

Capt. Domingo Salipsip, a representative of Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]

civil relations service chief, has assured the CHR commissioner that the military will promptly look into the complaints.

Aquino Launches Samar Development Project

HK2501054190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] President Aquino today launched an extensive drive against poverty in the form of the pilot project of the Philippine Assistance Program [PAP] at Catbalogan, Samar. She hopes that the program will be the model of other PAP projects. According to Aquino, its success lies in the cooperation and determination of Samar residents.

[Begin Aquino recording in English] Let it be clearer said that in this war against poverty, the Samarenos and their leaders must emerge as the ultimate heroes. This is a war they must fight themselves. For even as we stand beside them as comrades-in-arms, still, the Samarenos must deal the death blow of poverty. In your hands now depends the wide use of the physical infrastructures we are building here. You alone can exercise profitable stewardships over the vast livelihood opportunities that are being opened up for you. Your leaders alone are primarily responsible for identifying your needs on a continuing basis and tapping the resources we are making available for you. [end recording]

The president further said that she has approved the release of 57 million pesos for the development projects in Samar. The funds will come from the proceeds of the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation.

No Compromise on Marcoses' 'Ill-Gotten Wealth'

HK2401112790 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 24 Jan 90

[From the "GMA News" program]

[Text] The government has again failed to strike a compromise agreement on the recovery of ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses. Mateo Caparas, Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG] chairman, reported that he recently met with Bongbong Marcos [son of late President Marcos] in the United States, but that nothing came out of the meeting, adding that they did not even agree on a future meeting.

Bongbong reportedly rejected Caparas' condition that his family publicize its statement of assets and liabilities. Caparas claimed that this was the only way for the government to determine how much money should be returned by the Marcoses to the country.

[Begin Caparas recording in progress] ...if I were in their shoes, it would be nice to have to pay nothing, but normally such a complete settlement is not reached. Normally, you have to pay something. I do not know how much they are willing to give. [end recording]

World Bank Sets Conditions for Loan Release

HK2401092990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 23 Jan 90 p 14

[By staff member Arleen Chipongian]

[Text] The Philippine government will have to increase its public investments particularly on the improvement of existing government facilities if it wants to avail itself of the remaining $50 million debt management loan from the World Bank (WB) this year.

A foreign banking source said one of the conditionalities set by the WB includes increased public investments this year, the equivalent of 5% of GNP.

Another is the allocation of more funds for maintenance and operations of existing government facilities to 1982 levels.

The $50 million WB facility is part of the $200 million debt management loan made available to the Philippines last year.

The initial tranche of $150 million was disbursed last month to finance the buy-back of about $1.337 billion Philippine debt papers from foreign creditor banks.

The same source explained that the WB has noted that in the past years, particularly during the Philippine economic recession in 1983 to 1985, public investments have significantly declined.

It was pointed out that the WB would like to see increased investments in infrastructure such as roads, school buildings, hospitals and bridges.

On top of these conditionalities, the WB remains concerned over the general macro-economic program of the country that covers fiscal programs and measures to control inflation.

"The loan disbursement for the debt management fund is based on economic performance and is not time-bound," the source added.

The $50 million remaining debt management loan is part of the WB's program funds for this year, which are expected to surpass the $840.5 million loan approval made in 1989. Among these loans are:

—$60 million for the Industrial Guarantee and Loan Fund;
—$300 million for the financial sector reform program;
—$65.5 million for the Manila Electric Company made through the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP);
—$70 million for the health development program;
—$65 million industrial credits made through the DBP;
—$40 million for improvement of water works and supply.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao said the second phase of the country's debt reduction program will focus on interest reduction.

The Philippines has earlier availed itself of $471.7 million in debt and debt service reduction facilities from the WB, International Monetary Fund and the Japan Export-Import Bank.

The country is still eligible to draw about $1.12 billion from the foreign financial institutions for financing of its future debt reduction program.

Meanwhile, the same foreign banking source said developments in Eastern Europe would affect the inflows of Official Development Assistance (ODA) through the Philippine Assistance Program (PAP).

Last year, in the first PAP pledging session held in Tokyo, the country was able to get $3.5 billion in ODAs.

The source said in the case of the WB which has limited resources, the available funds for developing countries will be distributed among existing beneficiaries like the Philippines and new democracies in East European such as Poland.

However, the source indicated confidence that favorable economic performance of the country would still merit sustained fund inflows from donor-countries.

Japanese Replace Americans as Top Investors

HK2201101190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Jan 90 p 15

[By Emeterio Sd. Perez]

[Text] Despite pronouncements that American companies plan to increase their investments in the Philippines, official statistics indicate that there has been no dramatic increase in the level of their investments in the local economy.

However, many American firms already operating locally said, in a survey conducted by the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines after the aborted coup, that they will proceed with expansion plans.

The hesitancy of American companies to firm up their investment plans is believed to be linked to the uncertainty over the status of American military bases in the country.

Japanese businessmen, on the other hand, have been putting in money quietly such that last year, Japanese investments in the Philippines rose 38 percent to P1.22 billion from P890 million in 1988 to lead foreign investments in the country for the second straight year.

The Japanese dislodged the Americans as top investors in 1988 when the latter's direct equity infusion amounted to P576.9 which was even less than the P627.4 million investments brought in by the Taiwanese. In 1989, American investments slowed further to only P128 million.

Preliminary data collated by the Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC] showed Japanese capital infusion in 1989 accounted for 29.8 percent of total foreign investments of P4.1 billion during the year.

The SEC ranking listed Hong Kong businessmen next with P436.6 million followed by Chinese classed by the commission as "Philippine residents" who were credited with P346.1 million.

The Taiwanese who were ranked third were credited with P271.2 million equity in various companies.

Based on the SEC's 10-year report, the Taiwanese were never at the top spot although they overtook the Americans in 1988 when they invested P627.4 million compared to the latter's P576.9 million.

In 1988, the Taiwanese were the second top investors after the Japanese. However, their capital infusion lagged behind the Japan's P890.4 million by P263 million.

The SEC list of foreign investors last year included the Australians with P264.1 million; Americans, P128.6 million; Europeans, P261.7 million; and Singaporeans, P149.9 million.

The Americans were a big disappointment last year as shown by the SEC ranking. From 1981, they were the country's top foreign investors with P75.8 million surpassed only by P79.3 million equity of investors from European countries.

The following year, American businessmen infused P226 million in various companies compared to the Europeans' P257.6 million. The investments were equivalent to 33.99 percent of total investments of P627.9 million.

In 1983, they remained on top with P246.7 million equivalent to 57.61 percent of P428.2 million total investments. By 1984, the trend did not change with the Americans bringing in P246.5 million.

In 1985, the Japanese started to make their presence felt by investing P609.5 million. The amount, however, was not enough to displace the Americans who managed to close the year with P695.3 million when total investments hit the billion peso mark or P1.49 billion.

In 1986 when foreign investments drastically went down to P885.4 million, the SEC list still showed the Americans on top with P360.5 million with the Japanese closing in with P229.7 million.

The Japanese, with their investments of P150.3 million, got bumped off in 1987 from the second spot when Hong Kong investors overtook them with equity of P218.2 million.

The Americans tightly held on to top spot with P509.1 million of the year's total investments of P1.56 billion.

Loan Rescheduling Accord Signed With FRG

HK2401040590 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 24 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] The Philippines yesterday signed a bilateral reacheduling agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany. The agreement covers loans extended by Kreditstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KFW) amounting to DM 14.8 million and Hermes-insured commercial credits totalling DM33.2 million and US$22.8 million.

Together, these loans amount to US$50.8 million, using the exchange rate of Jan. 22. of DM1.71 to a dollar.

The interest on the rescheduled KFW credits is fixed at 2.5%. The Hermes commercial credits carry different interest rates depending on their due date. Those that were in arrears from Sept. 1, 1988 to May 31, 1989 carry a 6.75% rate; those due from June 1, 1989 to March 30, 1990 carry a 7.2% rate; those due from April 1, 1990 to June 30, 1991 will have a rate determined by the average yield of German Federal Bonds on the secondary market for the year preceding October 1990, plus a margin of 0.4%.

This rescheduling agreement is the sixth bilateral agreement concluded under the third Paris Club rescheduling talks of May 26, 1989.

The third Paris Club rescheduling agreement provided the general framework for rescheduling Philippine official debt, such as specifying which loans falling due were covered by the reschuling. The Philippines then had to conclude separate bilateral agreements with each of its 14 official creditors.

Thailand

Officials Comment on Sihanouk Resignation

Chatchai Makes Statement

BK2501143790 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan told newsmen at Government House today that there was no conflict between his team of policy advisers and the Bank of Thailand over the adjustment of the interest rate as reported. [passage omitted]

Asked about Prince Norodom Sihanouk's resignation, the prime minister said Prince Sihanouk had resigned as head of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. He has learned that Prince Norodom Sihanouk will come to Thailand next month for a meeting with other parties on the Cambodian problem. The prime minister said that there should be hope for some success. He stressed that all Khmer parties must cooperate and must not leave it to others to try to solve the problem for them. Concerning the meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, the prime minister said that Prince Sihanouk's son can attend the meeting on his behalf if Prince Sihanouk does not want to attend the meeting.

Spokesman Assesses Impact

BK2501012590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] Prince Sihanouk's resignation as head of the resistance coalition should not have any impact on the Cambodian peace effort which is proceeding with its own dynamics, Foreign Ministry Deputy Spokesman Suraphong Chaiyanam said yesterday.

Prince Sihanouk had quit and returned on several occasions, but the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea has always remained the legitimate representative of Cambodia recognised by the United Nations, he said.

Mr Suraphong said the momentum of the Cambodian peace movement is going on smoothly, regardless of the role of the "big five" of the UN Security Council or because of the Paris conference process, and Prince Sihanouk's decision should not affect the ongoing dynamics.

He added that so far the Foreign Ministry has not heard from Indonesia about the new round of peace talks within the Paris framework.

Daily Welcomes Ministry's New Indochina Policy

BK1901112990 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 19 Jan 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Indochina Strategy Is Changing"]

[Text] There is a picture of harmony of the foreign policy being pursued by the Foreign Ministry and the prime minister's advisers at Ban Phitsanulok [advisers' office]. Last year there were clashes and conflicts between the two teams in their conduct of foreign policy, especially on the issue of Cambodia and the prime minister's policy of turning the Indochinese battlefield into a marketplace. The Foreign Ministry has now adjusted itself in response to the line adopted by the prime minister.

For the first time, a meeting was held between members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, including Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sitthi Sawetsila himself. The session lasted for 3 hours, and the outcome was reported successful as both parties agreed to step up cooperation.

They adopted a common view that international trade would become more difficult in the future, especially because of trade protectionism. They therefore agreed that it is necessary for the ministry and the committee to cooperate more closely and to share information.

Praiseworthily, ACM Sitthi Sawetsila admitted that the past policy of isolating Vietnam does not conform with present realities. His ministry now wants to promote relations with Vietnam. The Foreign Ministry has thus perceived the changes and is adjusting itself with the new situation in time.

Not long ago, the Foreign Ministry publicized a decision to adjust its policy in line with the policy proclaimed by the prime minister—Foreign Minister Sitthi announced that the ministry would play a lesser role on Cambodia while concentrating on foreign trade. The meeting between the ministry and the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the recent announcement by the foreign minister to stop the isolation of Vietnam thus confirmed the earlier stand taken.

The Foreign Ministry's declaration to stop isolating Vietnam and to promote relations with that country is a victory for Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's policy of turning Indochina from a battlefield into a marketplace. It is hoped that, from now on, the foreign policy of this government will be consistent, without signs of conflict.

The prospects look good, and the Foreign Ministry should have a bigger role to play in holding talks with its ASEAN partners on an expansion into Indochina. Thailand has already started discussions with Singapore on introducing ASEAN technology into Indochina to develop raw materials for use by the people in the region.

This role is very important for the Foreign Ministry to play, as there has already been some misunderstanding among our ASEAN friends regarding our policy of turning the Indochinese battlefields into markets—they feared that Thailand would turn toward Indochina at the expense of ASEAN. However, geographically speaking, both Indochina and ASEAN are part of the same region.

Editorial Calls Policy on Cambodia 'Impotent'

BK2001044090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Jan 90 p 8

[Editorial: "A Policy of Impotency"]

[Text] What is Thailand's current position on the Cambodian conflict? Apart from the hope of seeing the dream about a comprehensive political settlement come true, nothing else is clear.

Moreover, neither Premier Chatchai Chunhawan and his policy advisers, nor Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila and his men are trying to figure out how to achieve this noble goal, or to examine whether there is any second best alternative if this goal cannot be achieved, which is the case right now.

The premier and his policy advisers were too busy with internal politics in the past few weeks to have time for Cambodia. This seemed to suit the foreign minister just fine because he would have more time to adjust his position to the rapidly changing situation.

The foreign minister announced he would no longer be obsessed with Cambodia and competing with the premier in defining Thai policy toward this 11-year-old regional conflict. The Vietnamese with-drawal from Cambodia, in his opinion, has satisfactorily ended the direct Vietnamese military threat to Thai national security. And this week he added that it was time to begin a gradual end to the economic isolation of Vietnam, imposed jointly by ASEAN and its Western allies to force Hanoi to withdraw all of its troops from Cambodia after its invasion of the country in December 1978.

Sitthi's latest "flexible" position now corresponds with the premier's famous goal of transforming the battlefield of Indochina into an international marketplace. So far so good.

Both the foreign minister and the premier welcomed the agreement of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on "an enhanced UN role" in resolving the Cambodian conflict. But the premier went farther by supporting the call of 90 Thai MPs for an end to all Thai and foreign military assistance to the the three Cambodian resistance factions of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK).

The foreign minister merely brushed it aside saying he was not in a position to take up this proposal of the parliamentarians, some of whom are from his Social Action Party.

He couldn't agree or disagree with the proposal because the Foreign Ministry like the Thai military, has always maintained that Thailand has never given military assistance or sanctuary to the Cambodian resistance forces nor has Chinese arms ever been shipped via Thailand to the Khmer Rouge.

This is probably why the three Cambodian factions seldom show deference to Thailand or the premier. This is what our "invisible" role in the Cambodian conflict has led us to—a totally impotent bystander.

Thailand is a "frontline" state in the Cambodian conflict and Premier Chatchai has often reminded us that Thai border villagers still suffer from the spill-over of the war in Cambodia. Yet Thailand is not in a position to do anything about the Cambodian conflict now. How strange?

The Big Five in the UN have come up with a position on the "enhanced UN role", the CGDK of Prince Norodom Sihanouk still would like to try a four-party Cambodian provisional government, and the fourth faction of Hun Sen in Phnom Penh prefers a combination of the Namibia formula and the Australian proposal. What about us, Thailand, what's our preference?

Those who claim or believe that Thailand cannot push for any particular solution for Cambodia must assume that Thailand had not provided military assistance or sanctuary to the Cambodian resistance forces. But anyone who has been to the Thai-Cambodian border

knows this is not true. In fact, without Thailand's active military assistance and sanctuaries on Thai territory, the resistance forces would have been wiped out by the Vietnamese occupation forces long ago.

So if those leaders of the Cambodian resistance don't feel they owe anything to their own people, they must at least realize that they have overstayed their welcome in this country. Otherwise those 90 Thai parliamentarians wouldn't have stood up to demand an end to the years of military assistance.

The upcoming meeting in Jakarta next month will be their last chance to show their own people, Thailand and the rest of the world that they still would like to resolve the Cambodian conflict through peaceful means. If they want to continue the fighting in Cambodia, they had better move all their troops and weapons out of Thai territory and fight their heart out inside Cambodia.

We hope the 90 Thai MPs will continue to demand a more constructive and realistic Thai position on Cambodia. Our apparent impotency is no longer bearable.

EC Backs Neutral Camp for Displaced Cambodians

BK2401005390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jan 90 p 2

[By Thana Phupat]

[Text] The European Community (EC) will encourage the Thai government to set up a neutral camp for displaced Cambodians as part of the preparations for their eventual repatriation following a political settlement in Cambodia, an EC commissioner said yesterday.

Commissioner Abel Matutes, in charge of relations with Asia and Latin America, said he discussed the suggestion with Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila during their meeting on Monday [22 January].

The proposed non-political camp is for "(Cambodian) people who feel they are threatened, those who think they are not involved in any of the parties in conflict," according to Matutes.

Moreover, the neutral camp, whose location has yet to be discussed, would also facilitate the Cambodian displaced persons' future repatriation and reintegration process, he said.

"We are going to encourage the Thai government to pursue (its Cambodian policy) in that direction," Matutes said.

A source in the EC delegation quoted Sitthi as telling Matutes that the Thai government favours a neutral camp located inside Cambodia. At present, about 300,000 Cambodian displaced persons are living in separate border camps under the control of the three Cambodian resistance forces.

The European Community, a major donor of humanitarian assistance to Indochinese refugees and displaced persons in Asia, provided an equivalent of about Bt515 million to refugees in the region in 1989. Of this, more than 55 percent was used to support assistance programmes for refugees and displaced persons in Thailand last year.

Matutes, who was to complete his three-day official visit to Thailand today, said the EC would continue to play an active role in the search for a peaceful conclusion to the Cambodian conflict and a durable solution to the refugee situation in the region.

He also affirmed EC'c continuing readiness to participate in appropriate repatriation and reintegration programmes.

—Meanwhile, a senior member of the EC delegation, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told THE NATION that EC will step up humanitarian aid, including medical and technical assistance, to the Cambodian population inside Cambodia.

The EC official, however, said the assistance will be channelled to Cambodians in areas under the control of the Phnom Penh government through United Nations and voluntary agencies operating there.

EC is prepared to provide more aid to Cambodians inside Cambodia upon request although proposals for humanitarian aid programmes will be scrutinized on a case-by-case basis, according to the official.

"The EC's humanitarian aid is given out irrespective of the recipients' polical system," he said.

The assistance granted to the Cambodian population inside Cambodia is consistent with massive movements of population and casualties in Cambodia as the result of intensified fighting between the tripartite Cambodian resistance forces and the Phnom Penh government, the official said.

Column Criticizes U.S. House Narcotics Team

BK2201074790 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 21 Jan 90 p 5

["Ta Mo Lo" column: "The United States Is Intimidating Thailand Again"]

[Excerpts] Recently the Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Narcotic Control Commission visited Thailand, during which time he called on Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin and gave a news conference.

At the news conference, he first thanked Thailand for narcotics suppression and prevention cooperation, and praised its successful opium crop substitution program. He then launched a tirade against Thailand, saying he did not want to see Thailand develop an image similar to Colombia as a narcotics exporter. [passage omitted]

Such a characterization by the chairman of the U.S. House Commission and his delegation shows no sign of cooperation or desire for cooperation. On the contrary, it

sounds like intimidation. Intimidation of smaller countries appears to be a trait of the American people.

The U.S. delegation also blames Thailand. The United States is wealthy and possesses great power, but it has not been able to suppress or prevent the importation of narcotics. It is unfair for the United States to blame Thailand.

We want to warn the United States just as it warned us: If the U.S. narcotics warlords become more powerful, they will attack U.S. institutions and social structure.

The United States has hinted that it may use the Generalized System of Preferences to punish Thailand as a narcotics-exporting country. Such a threat from a bully is not suprising.

The U.S. House delegation must have visited the Golden Triangle and been aware of Thailand's ability to reduce the opium cultivation area by more than 80 percent, which clearly demonstrates Thailand's sincerity.

Opium cultivation in Burma and Laos continues unchanged due to the unfavorable political situation there. Why did the United States not attempt to tackle the problem there? Although the United States may not be able to force the issue in those countries, the United Nations can do it if the narcotics problem is to be effectively tackled.

For a long time, Thailand has earnestly replaced opium crops and suppressed narcotics trafficking. Its success has even been recognized by the United States. It has had to devote huge resources for this purpose, but has received little cooperation from the United States, which is wealthy and has benefited a great deal from Thailand's efforts. It is unfair for a small developing country like Thailand to shoulder such a heavy burden alone. The U.S. House commission delegation should encourage the U.S. Government to extend cooperation to Thailand to enhance the effectiveness of the antinarcotics program. It would be better for the delegation to do this than to intimidate Thailand and demoralize it.

The U.S. House delegation certainly flexed its muscle in the wrong place.

Editorial Calls Burmese Poll 'Unrepresentative'

BK1901030590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jan 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Burmese Poll Unfair and Unrepresentative"]

[Text] There is every reason for the ruling Burmese military dictatorship, known officially as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), to fear the frail but charismatic Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's main opposition leader.

Having returned to her homeland in April 1988 to tend to her ailing mother after more than half a lifetime abroad, Suu Kyi was quickly caught up in Burma's political maelstrom. Within a short period of time, the daughter of Burma's national hero Aung San attracted popular support among the democracy-hungry Burmese citizenry and, effectively, established herself as a symbol of defiance against the regime of General Saw Maung.

Sadly, it comes as little surprise that Suu Kyi is to be barred from contesting the scheduled May 27 elections. Tuesday's decision by the district commission of the Elections Commission which was based on charges by the military-backed National Unity Party that she had links with unlawful organisations represents the latest of what appears to be an orchestrated campaign by SLORC to deny her the right to stand in the poll.

The move shows that the military regime which mercilessly crushed pro-democracy demonstrators back in 1988 is not about to take any chances by allowing Suu Kyi to pose a real threat to its iron grip on power.

In fact, the popular opposition leader has plenty of experience as far as harassment and intimidation from the military dictatorship goes. Since last July, she has been placed under house arrest and barred from campaigning. She was also falsely accused by the state-controlled media of sacrilege and of having communist advisers.

Besides, 15 of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy's 33 central committee members have been detained and others who have not been arrested face constant harassment.

But Suu Kyi and her NLD are not the only main opposition parties harassed by SLORC.

U Nu, the patron of the League for Democracy and Peace which is contesting the elections under the opposition's banner, has been placed under house arrest for refusing to dissolve a "parallel government" he formed in September 1988. Another prominent opposition leader from the NLD, Gen Tin U, has been sentenced to three years imprisonment.

With the leading opposition figures who are in a position to pose a real challenge against or barred from the elections, the May 27 elections promise to be something of a farce.

But democracy aspirants both inside and outside Burma are not likely to be duped. Notwithstanding the unending flow of underground materials emanating from various Burmese dissident groups that are highly critical of the ruling military regime's repressive action, the international community—particularly Burma's aid donors—are also keeping a close watch on events leading up to the May election. Based on the known positions of these countries, it is conceivable that they may choose to continue holding back aid unless they are fully convinced that the upcoming poll is free and fair.

It is unfortunate that, while democratic changes are sweeping across Eastern Europe bringing new hope and a

new sense of pride among Eastern Europeans, the xenophobic military leadership in Rangoon seems to remain entrenched on the opposite course. The Burmese dictatorship would do well to study what has happened to some of the world's best-known dictators who have fallen into disgrace. It is still not too late for them to change—not only to correspond with the global winds of political and economic change but more importantly to follow the wishes of their own citizens.

Vietnam

Switzerland To Reopen Embassy in Hanoi

BK2301115590 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] President of the Swiss Confederation A. Koller expresses the Swiss Government's and people's desire to strengthen their friendship relations and cooperation with Vietnam. President Koller was speaking at a reception for Bui Hong Phuc, Vietnamese ambassador to Switzerland, who handed over to him the credentials. He informed the Vietnamese ambassador of the Swiss Confederation's decision to reopen the Swiss Embassy in Hanoi.

On the situation in Cambodia, President Koller expressed his hope that all sides concerned should negotiate an early solution to the Cambodian issue on the basis of respect for the Cambodian people's right to self determination.

Officials Review Labor Issues With Soviets

BK2501050690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] A conference was held in Moscow on 18-22 January to review the labor cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam in Moscow in 1989 and to discuss a program of action for 1990.

In their reports, Comrade Dao Hai Hoan, head of the personnel management committee at our embassy in the Soviet Union, and Comrade (Afanasyev), representative of the Soviet State Commission for Labor and Social Affairs, highly valued the good examples set by the contingent of Vietnamese workers in the Soviet Union and pointed to weaknesses that need to be overcome as well as shortcomings displayed by both sides in the process of implementing the labor cooperation program.

According to Comrade (Afanasyev), the majority of Vietnamese workers have thoroughly mastered technology and fulfilled their tasks on schedule with high results.

In their discussions, the delegates also pointed to such weaknesses as a poor sense of discipline by some workers and the extreme concern of others for the need to use the money earned through work to buy goods and ship them to their families back home.

Similar conferences to review the Soviet-Vietnam 1989 labor cooperation program have also been scheduled for other regions.

Protocol on Cooperation Signed With USSR

BK2201155490 Hanoi VNA in English 1521 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 22—A protocol on cultural cooperation in 1990 between Vietnam and the Soviet Union was signed here today by Vietnamese Vice-Minister of Culture Vu Khac Lien and his Soviet counterpart V.I. Kazenin.

Present at the signing ceremony were Tran Van Phac, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and minister of culture; and Minister Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Vietnam A. S. Voronin.

Under the protocol, the two countries will exchange visits by art troupes, researchers and artists, and will jointly hold cultural and artistic seminars, workshops and exhibitions.

A Soviet cultural delegation led by Vice-Minister V.I. Kazenin has been visiting here since Jan. 16.

Gathering Marks Diplomatic Ties Anniversary

BK2401145590 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 24—A get-together was jointly arranged here today by the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Association to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Vietnamese-Soviet diplomatic relations.

Among those present were Dang Huu, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, president of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association, Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy head of the party Commission for External Relations, B.V. Melnik, minister counsellor, and others.

Speaking on this occasion, Dang Huu and B.V. Melnik reviewed the development of the friendly relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union over the past 40 years and affirmed that the two peoples would do their utmost to constantly foster the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Vo Van Kiet Interviewed on 45th CEMA Outcome

BK2401103590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Interview with Vo Van Kiet, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and head of Vietnamese delegation to the 45th CEMA Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, by unidentified station correspondent; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] Would you please tell us what were the new points in the 45th CEMA Conference held recently in Sofia as compared to the previous ones?

[Vo Van Kiet] The 45th CEMA Conference could be said to be a conference of very special significance to CEMA as well as to all member countries. The reason I said that was the conference had been first planned as a regular annual meeting of the council with an agenda similar to the previous ones. Nevertheless, over the past year, especially in the second half of 1989, great changes have taken place in several CEMA member countries in Europe. Morever, the trend to internationalize the economic life in each country is expanding. In each member country, restructuring and renovation is being implemented under various forms and to different extents. In such a situation, CEMA must reconsider its system of cooperation to make it agree with the situation of economic development and the current external economic relations of various countries.

Two questions were raised: 1) Does CEMA need to exist continually? and 2) If it does, how will it exist? The very need to answer these two questions made this conference a special one and the contents of the 45th conference also focussed on these two questions. What effects then has the CEMA exerted? We all know that CEMA was established in January 1949, and it has lasted for 41 years or more. In all fairness and from the historical viewpoint, CEMA has contributed to socioeconomic development in each member country and to the strength of the whole community just like our delegation had assessed at the conference.

Comrade Ryzhkov, the Soviet delegation head said: For tens of years after the war, CEMA has implemented its central role of organizing and promoting the unification of our efforts and raised the economic development to a new level in each individual country and the community as a whole. Owing to CEMA, we have implemented various important scientific, technical, and economic projects. Many member countries have been able to better meet their demands for raw materials, fuel, machinery, equipment, food, and consumer goods. Some countries have secured conditions for joining in the relations of world economy. A statement on the establishment of official relations between CEMA and EEC was recently signed. However, we must admit that the situation of work within CEMA has recently presented all the more aspects of weakness and is unable to promptly meet the requirements for economic development in each country and for cooperation among the countries in the new situation.

The main shortcoming is that the relations of CEMA cooperation were established during the period of centralized administration based on subsidies and of goods exchange in kind without taking market relations into account. This very point has eliminated the motive force to encourage enterprises to participate in external economic activities and precluded the raising of technical standards and product quality. This situation can be seen clearly in our country's factories manufacturing exports according to protocols for CEMA member countries as they have encountered many difficulties and have proved to be less efficient.

As a result of the aforementioned situation and requirements, the 45th CEMA Conference focussed on discussing the overall renovation of the CEMA's operations concerning both the principle and system of cooperation, and on this basis, to renovate the organization and modify regulations. This is the new prominent point of this conference.

[Correspondent] How were the activities of our country's delegation to this conference?

[Vo Van Kiet] The very encouraging point was that the requirements of renovating the CEMA's activities are also very relevant to our country's lines and policies of renovation which were already set at the sixth party congress and have been implemented since 1987. Stemming mainly from this reality and owing to the principled guidance of the Political Bureau and Secretariat, the Council of Ministers Standing Committee had made adequate preparations for our country's delegation to depart and attend the conference, manifesting clearly our country's viewpoints on this paramount issue of CEMA.

At the 45th CEMA Conference, our country's delegation presented a statement—the full text of which has been published by the press and carried on the Voice of Vietnam—with its contents focusing on the following points:

1. Affirm the need to have CEMA, but it must be an international economic organization with a new format, a new organizational structure, and a new operational mechanism.

2. The new format of CEMA must be designed to terminate the managerial system of formalistic centralized planning and completely switch over to the broad utilization of economic methods and commodity-money relations. The targets of the cooperative process are grass-roots economic units. We support the policy to apply the current world prices and to settle payments with convertible foreign currencies; but this must be done step by step.

3. Regarding Vietnam in particular, our policy is to offer CEMA member countries preferential treatment in jointly exploiting our country's natural and labor resources under diverse forms of cooperation. Conditions for cooperation and preferential treatment will be agreed upon on the basis of mutual benefit.

Our delegation's statement was judged by the CEMA session as consistent with the common trend and appropriate.

Also, while attending the session, our country's delegation met other friendly delegations to exchange views on various issues relating to the organization and operation

of CEMA as well as to the cooperative relations between our country and their countries.

In spite of the different changes in the situation of each country, affirmed our delegation, we should firmly maintain and continue to develop the existing traditional relationship on the basis of mutual benefit. This view was greatly welcomed by other delegations.

[Correspondent] Comrade, please tell us about the important results of the recent CEMA session.

[Vo Van Kiet] The 45th CEMA Conference unanimously adopted a resolution and issued a press communique which stresses the need to thoroughly change the entire system of economic cooperation, including the financial, monetary, and pricing mechanisms; and to reexamine the principles for cooperation within the framework of CEMA as well as the goals, functions, structure, and statutes of CEMA in keeping with the spirit of international law. The meeting decided to set up a special committee to draft suggestions concerning the abovesaid issues and present them to member countries in May 1990. These issues will be discussed at the 46th CEMA Conference.

The session noted that the member countries of CEMA deem it necessary to gradually shift their cooperation in trade and production to a market basis which is close to the conditions of the world market, including the gradual, phased pegging of trading activities to world market prices and payment in convertible foreign currencies. However, in order to avoid major disruptions in the development of relations among CEMA member countries, such issues as the conditions and specific time, as well as the procedures for this change will be worked out phase by phase as agreed upon among the parties concerned. Relations in the future will be mainly bilateral or multilateral. Economic relations will also be developed and expanded in each region.

I have talked about the results of the 45th CEMA Conference, a session that marked a historic turning point of CEMA. However, it is necessary to stress that the session reached an identity of views on principled issues while the situation in some countries was developing. We understand that there exist among CEMA member countries traditional relations and mutual bonds; and therefore, to continue mutual cooperation is very essential. To basically change the operations of CEMA is a complex struggle in terms of viewpoints, principles, and methods of cooperation; this will certainly be no simple task. Nevertheless, the inevitable trend is to carry out renovation; and only by so doing can CEMA create more favorable conditions for socioeconomic development in each member country so it can participate more effectively in world economic relations.

On the eve of the nation's traditional New Year, I, in my personal capacity, would like to wish every family greater joy during the Tet holidays. Our Council of Ministers also affirmed at its meeting at the end of last year that we must strive to make the 1991 Tet an even more joyful occasion than in this year.

Student Demonstrations in Mongolia Reported

BK2301125190 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Mongolian lecturers and students have held many demonstrations in Ulaanbaatar since mid-December 1989 calling for restructuring and renovation. In Ulaanbaatar on 14 January the demonstrators demanded that all statues of Stalin be pulled down and former top Mongolian leader Tsedenbal be brought to a trial back home. They also demanded the resignation of all Political Bureau members under Tsedenbal. The Mongolian Government has banned all demonstrations, but despite this order, the Democratic Alliance last Sunday [21 January] staged a demonstration demanding 5 working days a week, [words indistinct], political reforms, and respect for human rights.

Cambodian Awards Presented to Trade Experts

BK2501122790 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1057 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 25—Four Vietnamese trade experts have been decorated with the "Labour" order and "Friendship" order of the State of Cambodia.

Present at a conferment ceremony held in Hanoi recently were Tep Henn, Cambodian ambassador to Vietnam, and Hoang Minh Thang, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and minister of home trade.

Leaders Greet Australia on 202d National Day

BK2501075390 Hanoi VNA in English 0704 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 25—State Council President Vo Chi Cong has extended his greetings to Governor-General Bill Hayden on the 202nd Australia Day (Jan. 26).

President Vo Chi Cong, in his message, wished the Australian people further achievements in building a prosperous and happy Australia, and the friendship and cooperation between the two countries further consolidation and development.

On this occasion, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi has also sent greetings to his Australian counterpart, Robert Hawke.

King of Thailand Receives New SRV Envoy

BK2401153490 Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 24—King Phumiphon Adunyadet of Thailand, while receiving Vietnamese ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung who presented him his credentials on Jan. 23, expressed his wishes for further

development of the cooperation and friendship between Thailand and Vietnam in the interests of peace and prosperity of the countries in the region.

King Phumphon Adunyadet asked Ambassador Nguyen Trung to convey to President Vo Chi Cong, the government and people of Vietnam his wishes for their happiness and prosperity.

Earlier, Ambassador Nguyen Trung was received by Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila.

Leaders Greet Indian Counterparts on National Day

BK2501074790 Hanoi VNA in English 0659 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 25—State Council President Vo Chi Cong and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi have sent greetings to their Indian counterparts on the occasion of the 40th republic day of India (Jan. 26).

In his message to President R. Venkataraman, President Vo Chi Cong said:

"We highly value India's great role and prestige in the Non-aligned Movement and in the international arena as a whole as well as its positive contributions to the struggle for peace and cooperation in the region and all over the world. We rejoice at the fine development of the traditional friendship and multiform cooperation between our two countries for the interests of our peoples and for peace, cooperation and development in Asia. On this occasion, I would like to express deep thanks to the government and the people of India for their strong support and effective assistance to the Vietnamese people in their struggle for independence and freedom in the past as well as their national construction and defence at present."

For his part, Chairman Do Muoi, in his message to Prime Minister V. P. Singh, praised India as an "important factor of peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world over, and its positive contribution to the common struggle of all nations for peace, independence and international security, and for a new world economic order." He wished the fraternal Indian people greater successes in their building a modern and prosperous India, and the friendship and multiform cooperation between the two countries further consolidation and development.

NHAN DAN Marks India's 40th Republic Day

BK2501085990 Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 25—Marking the 40th Republic Day of India, NHAN DAN today hails the all-round achievements recorded by the Indian people since the regaining of independence.

The paper says:

"Those achievements are of greater significance at a time when the Indian people have to overcome heavy consequences caused by floods and droughts in recent consecutive years, and to solve internal issues such as several rebel groups attempts at destabilizing the country and breaking national unity.

"India has made active contributions to the settlement of regional and international issues, thus raising the Republic of India's prestige in the international arena."

On the Vietnam-India relationship, the paper stresses:

"Vietnam and India are close friends. Together with progressive people in the world, the two peoples recently celebrated J. Nehru's birth centenary and will celebrate President Ho Chi Minh's birth centenary this year, who are beloved leaders of the two nations, world cultural personalities, and also great architects of the loyal Vietnamese-Indian friendship. The two peoples have the right to be proud that they have done their utmost to make that friendship constantly blossom."

It points out in conclusion:

"The official friendship visit to India by party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh on the occasion of the 39th Republic Day was an important landmark, raising the Vietnamese-Indian relationship to a new stature."

Party Get-Together Held for Ethnic Chinese

BK2101091290 Hanoi VNA in English 0454 GMT 21 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 21—A get-together was held here yesterday between the party Central Committee's Commission for Mass Mobilization and Front Work and the representatives of ethnic Chinese in Hanoi on the occasion of the coming Tet, Lunar New Year festival.

Phan Minh Tanh, member of the party Central Committee and head of the commission, briefed the participants on the situation in the country since the promulgation of the party's policy of renovation. He praised the contributions of the nearly one million ethnic Chinese throughout the country to the initial successes of renovation.

He wished the ethnic Chinese happiness and more successes in their work to help stabilize and improve the socioeconomic situation in the country.

UN-Funded Job-Training Project Signed

BK2401075090 Hanoi VNA in English 0711 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 24—The document for a development project No. VIE/86/044, funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide engineering support services to government vocational schools was singed here on Jan.18.

Present at the signing ceremony were Minister of Secondary Vocational, Higher Education and Job-Traning Tran Hong Quan, Prof. Dr. Nguyen Minh Duong, who is in charge of the project, and David Smith, representative of the United Nations office in Hanoi.

The projects will be implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Center for Research, Design and Production of Prototype Equipment for Vocational Training (CREDEPRO) in Ho Chi Minh City. The objective of the project is to enhance the capability of cadres to provide engineering support services to government vocational schools.

The UNDP contribution to this project is U.S. dollar 1,570,000 and the Vietnamese Government's contribution is 702.5 Vietnamese million dong.

At present, Vietnam has some 300 job-training schools and over 200 job-training centres at the precinct and district levels.

UNDP-Funded Printing Industry Project Signed

BK2201155590 Hanoi VNA in English 1519 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 22—The document of a UNDP-funded project on development of Vietnam's printing industry was signed here on Jan. 19 by Phan Hien, vice-minister of information, and David Smith, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who also represents the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as the executing agency.

The project, codenamed V.I.E/86/043 and totally funded by the UNDP to the tune of 1,141,000 U.S. dollars, will help the Tien Bo (Progress) Printing House in Hanoi under the Ministry of Information acquire new printing techniques and methods and train appropriate personnel.

Nguyen Van Linh Speaks at Tet Get-Together

BK2501015190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] On the morning of 20 January at the Hoc Mon theater, Ho Chi Minh veteran revolutionaries and cadres from the city's labor, war invalid, and social welfare services jointly held a friendly get-together with representatives of families of fallen combatants and those who rendered services to the revolution from nine precincts and districts. Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh was also present.

Chatting cordially with the veteran cadres and representatives of families who rendered services to the revolution, the comrade general secretary recalled the heroic spirit demonstrated by our people in the struggle to regain national independence under the party's clear-sighted leadership, especially the invincible tradition of the people in the Hoc Mon, Ba Diem-18, and Thon Vuon Trau areas during the years of secret operation. He also praised our people for their contributions to the revolutionary cause in various periods of hard and unremitting struggle, as well as for their continued efforts against bureaucratism and such practice as alienating oneself from the masses by cadres, including those with high positions and authority.

On the occasion of the lunar new year, on behalf of the party Central Committee, the comrade general secretary wished good health to the comrade veteran revolutionaries and those families having rendered service to the revolution, and called on them to develop their glorious task of continuing to make contributions to the construction and defense of the Vietnamese fatherland.

Ho Chi Minh City Deputy Views Assembly Session

BK2501122590 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 5 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[Report by H.N.]

[Text] On 4 January, Mr Ly Chanh Trung, deputy head of Ho Chi Minh City's delegation of National Assembly deputies, gave a talk to the politico-social reporters' club attached to the city journalist's association on the results of the Eighth National Assembly's sixth session. According to him, there were many democratic activities at this National Assembly session. The speech delivered by Comrade Vo Chi Cong, Council of State chairman and member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau, stressed renovation of the party leadership in general and the National Assembly in particular. The Council of Ministers presented to the National Assembly its 900-page report reviewing its overall concrete activities in a spirit of self-criticism. National Assembly deputies raised more than 50 issues and the ministries concerned answered all questions. During its 10-day sitting, the National Assembly held 21 sessions (one at night), of which 6 were working-group sessions and 9 were plenary sessions. (Seven sessions were devoted to discussing the socioeconomic situation, and two were devoted to debating the three draft laws).

Regarding the press law, Mr Ly Chanh Trung said that after the draft law was announced, five provinces and cities proposed that the National Assembly hold its approval of the draft law for the next session. At a meeting of the heads of the delegations of deputies on 15 December 1989, the draft law—with amendments to 28 of its 30 articles containing many ideas contributed by various localities—was distributed to all participants. The draft law was amended again on 23 and 25 December after the National Assembly heard proposals by deputies. It was amended for the last time on 27 December before submission to the National Assembly for approval. During the National Assembly's debate on the draft law, eight deputies presented their viewpoints; four of them were from Ho Chi Minh City—Ly Chanh Trung, Nguyen Khai, Nguyen Thanh Lam, and Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh. Four deputies—three of whom were from Ho

Chi Minh City, namely Ly Chanh Trung, Nguyen Khai, and Nguyen Thanh Lam—proposed that the National Assembly hold its approval of the draft law for the next session. Mrs Ngo Ba Thanh agreed that the National Assembly approve the draft law at this session. The result was that 422 out of the 459 deputies present voted in favor of adopting the draft law.

Le Quang Dao Visits Bat Trang Village 23 Jan

BK2501045390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] On 23 January, Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly and vice chairman of the Council of State, paid a working visit to Bat Trang Village, Gia Lam District, Hanoi.

Accompanying Comrade Le Quang Dao were Comrade Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly; and Comrade Dinh Minh Ke, chairman of the Gia Lam district people's committee.

On behalf of local leading officials, the comrade village people's committee chairman and village party committee secretary briefed Comrade Le Quang Dao and other guests on the local socioeconomic situation.

Comrade Le Quang Dao called on Comrade Le Van Cam, a former war invalid who now produces ceramicware; the Anh Hong Cooperative; and the Bat Trang Ceramics Enterprise.

Speaking on this occasion, Comrade Le Quang Dao commended local leading officials and cooperative members and enterprise workers for their achievements in promoting production, improving the people's living conditions, and maintaining public security and social order.

The comrade reminded local officials and cooperative members and enterprise workers of the need to seek ways to renovate the economic management mechanism and to achieve closer labor cooperation between state enterprises, cooperatives, and households so as to further increase production output, improve product quality, firmly maintain and boost local ceramicware production, turn out new products capable of facing competition in the market, and achieve increasingly higher economic results.

The comrade devoted much of his time talking with local leading officials about such issues as renovation of economic affairs, democracy, social order, party-building work, and training of cadres to meet the requirements of the present situation. He attached special importance to the need to regard the people as the root; to develop the people's right of mastery and the role of the people's council; and to bring into full play the aggregate strength of the administration, the fatherland front, and mass societies under the leadership of the village party organization. In this way, there will exist conditions for the village to advance further.

Nguyen Quyet Pays Tet Visit to Lang Son

BK2501050090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] On the occasion of the new year 1990 and the Tet Canh Ngo [year of the horse], on 23 January General Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of State, and head of the Political General Department, visited and extended Tet greetings to a number of military units on work assignment in the border province of Lang Son.

General Nguyen Quyet visited the 123rd Regiment of the Lang Son regional forces and the provincial military command. He also called on and extended Tet greetings to the Lang Son provincial party committee and the families of Mr Nguyen Van Thom and Mrs Duong Thi Kim, who belong to a typical group of dependents of fallen combatants and families which have set good examples and rendered meritorious services to the revolution in Lang Son City.

General Nguyen Quyet also took this occasion to visit and extend Tet greetings to cadres and combatants of the Chi Lang Army Corps.

An Giang Province Reviews 1989 Achievements

BK2301132490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The Executive Committee of An Giang Province's party organization recently met to review the local socioeconomic situation in 1989 and set forth new tasks for 1990. In 1989, An Giang fulfilled or overfulfilled its key socioeconomic targets. Most outstanding were its grain output, which exceeded 1.2 million metric tons; its budget revenue, which totaled 100 billion dong, up by 50 percent from 1988; and its export value of 30 million rubles-dollars, a 400 percent increase over 1988. Fairly significant progress was made in culture, education, health care, war invalids' welfare, and social work. Public order and security were firmly maintained in many localities, and crime was cut by 50 percent.

65,000 Said Given Jobs in Ho Chi Minh City

BK2301150690 Hanoi VNA in English 1442 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 23—Last year, nearly 65,000 unemployed persons in Ho Chi Minh City were given jobs, two-thirds of them having been permanently employed.

A job-finding centre, jointly sponsored by the city's labour, social affairs and war invalids service, youth union and women's union, has been set up in the city, which also organized many job-training courses for young city-dwellers, especially demobilized soldiers and children of war invalids and fallen combatants.

This year the centre plans to find jobs for 75,000 more adults.

Australia

Navy Training Ship Issues Urgent Crew Call

BK2501084290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Auckland, New Zealand, Jan 25 (AFP)—A Royal Australian Navy ship here urgently recalled its crew Thursday, Television New Zealand reported.

The training and support ship "HMAS Jervis Bay" was here for a rest and recreation trip but police were now assisting the australians find its crew as it prepared to put to sea urgently, the report said.

It was understood the ship would be sailing for the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville where a secessionist movement is mounting increasing guerrilla pressure. Australia and New Zealand Thursday called on its nationals on the island to leave if they had no reason to stay there, following the killing of a British businessman resident in Sydney.

Fiji

Rabuka Will Not Tolerate Hindrance to 'Progress'

BK2301090090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] The commander of the Fiji military forces, Major General Rabuka, says the military will not tolerate any attempts to hinder the progress and growth of the country. Addressing a military parade in Suva, General Rabuka called on the forces to be ready to lend their assistance to the government when asked.

He said there were already signs that a number of people in Fiji wanted to use national issues for their own political ends. The general cited as an example the call for a national strike over the sugar industry award, and called on his men to consider the implications of such a strike to the nation.

He also called on army personnel to be ready to supply public transport if bus operators went ahead with the threatened strike.

New Zealand

Palmer Restructures Cabinet, Adds 7 New Members

BK2501103590 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] A revamped cabinet has been announced in New Zealand with seven new members attaining ministerial ranks. The restructured cabinet proved necessary for Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer after six cabinet ministers said they would retire at the next elections due in October.

Mr Palmer hopes the new lineup will provide a fresh, vigorous face to his Labor Party government, now trailing the opposition by 20 percent in public opinion polls, as Brendan Burns reports:

[Begin recording] [Burns] Today's [words indistinct] of the cabinet with all but retiring ministers up for re-selection was not an auspicious start to election year for Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer. Labor Party caucus pressure for the reshuffle had been building even before Mr Palmer took over as prime minister last August when David Lange quit the post.

Eight bench Labor MP's saw a number of ministers coming up for retirement and urged that these ministers be dropped in favor of new blood. At first, Mr Palmer ruled out any reshuffle. Late last year he said he had considered some changes over Christmas. Then, in recent days, he set the scene for a complete cabinet (?spill). Although, he confused us by asking three of the six retiring ministers to consider staying on after October's election saying he wanted to retain their experience in the cabinet. But all of the six retiring ministers, including former Finance Minister Roger Douglas, [words indistinct] confirmed they will stand down from politics. Mr Palmer urged his Labor caucus MP's not to reelect to cabinet any retiring minister; they obliged. He also provided an extra new vacancy, taking the number of cabinet members from 19 to 20.

So, seven new ministers were elected today—one with a familiar face, Richard Prebble, a staunch ally of Roger Douglas who had been sacked by David Lange from the powerful state and enterprises portfolio in late 1988. The other new cabinet ministers are Margaret Austin, Clive Matthewson, Peter Neilson, Fran Wilde, Jim Sutton, and Philip Woollaston.

A major problem for the Labor government has been its poor appeal to woman voters as economic and social restructuring has hit particularly hard at home and family life. In announcing his new cabinet, Mr Palmer noted a quarter of its members were women.

[Palmer] It is a very, very talented group of people. I think that it will [words indistinct], and that means there will be five women in the Labor cabinet. It is unprecedented in this country, it could not be matched by the National Party, which do not have five women in their caucus. They don't appear be getting any (?further either).

[Burns] Prime Minister Palmer hopes the revamped cabinet can present a new, more vigorous image to voters. But it is also (?losing) experienced ministers, particularly Roger Douglas, who drew votes and funds for Labor from the wealthier sectors of New Zealand society's [words indistinct]. Looking to New Zealand's international image, Mr Palmer also has to replace retiring Foreign Minister Mr Marshall and Defense Minister Bob Tizard.

Portfolios for the revamped cabinet will be announced next week. Former Prime Minister David Lange has said he wants to retain his post outside cabinet as attorney general. Even as portfolios are announced, there may be [words indistinct]. Geoffrey Palmer still faces a long and difficult 9 months of labor in the run-up to October election. [end recording]

Papua New Guinea

Australia Warns Nationals To Leave Country

BK2401125690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1242 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Port Moresby, Jan 24 (AFP)—Australia urged its nationals to leave Papua New Guinea's strife-torn Bougainville Island Wednesday as the 14-month secessionist crisis claimed its first foreign victim, a British-born businessman.

In its strongest warning since the crisis began, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs urged all Australians without an essential reason for being there to leave Bougainville as soon as possible.

The warning came only hours after Welshman Mike Wortley, a manager with Australia's Bridgestone tyre company, was shot dead and his Papua New Guinean assistant wounded as they left the company's compound near the dormant Panguna copper mine, closed since last May by rebel attacks. Sources on Bougainville, quoting witnesses, said that gunmen opened fire on Mr. Wortley and his assistant shortly after a military patrol had passed through the area.

Two Australians, an executive with the mine operator Bougainville Copper Ltd. (BCL) and a Melbourne journalist, were shot and wounded last week in separate incidents.

Bridgestone's Papua New Guinea General Manager Peter Love said Mr. Wortley, aged about 40, had been on Bougainville since September, but was preparing to return to his home of 10 years in Sydney because of the mine's closure. His wife and daughter had recently joined him for a holiday. Mr. Wortley's body was identified at Arawa General Hospital by his wife, doctors said.

The shooting of Mr. Wortley occurred near an area being cleared for an emergency airstrip for the evacuation of foreign nationals on Bougainville if attacks continued to escalate. The Australian Government has confirmed it has a contingency plan for an evacuation using military aircraft. The death of Mr. Wortley, the first foreigner to die in the guerrilla conflict which has claimed nearly 60 lives since November 1988, came as rebels attacked across the island.

Fresh violence was reported from Buka Island off the northern tip of Bougainville, where rebels had burnt down homes at the weekend forcing the evacuation of several families. Officials confirmed that rebel gunmen Wednesday seized a commercial aircraft at Buka's main airstrip, ordered the passengers out and set it on fire. Australian officials said that commercial air services were still operating into Bougainville.

The rebels also Wednesday attacked a district garrison at the southern end of strife-torn Bougainville Island. There are at least 1,000 Australians and 180 New Zealanders, including dependents, on Bougainville. It was not immediately known how many other foreign nationals were on the island. Some 150 Australians are left at Panguna after BCL mothballed its mine last December, rebel attacks having halted operations since May.

Canberra said Wednesday in its warning that Australian authorities were in close contact with BCL "about the company's plans for the departure of its employees."

A spokeswoman for Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs said Canberra's warning to leave Bougainville "represents an expression of heightened concern."

Reports reaching officials here Wednesday indicated that government workers at the district headquarters at Buin fled north to the provincial capital of Arawa about 60 kilometres (40 miles) away after the attack. The Buin raid appeared to be yet another set-back to the government which only Tuesday claimed to have captured and destroyed the rebel's headquarters near Panguna, taking a large amount of home-made weapons and documents. [passage omitted]

Bougainville Militants Set Two Warehouses Afire

BK2501014090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0100 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] There has been further violence on the troubled Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville as Britain and New Zealand joined Australia's lead in asking their nationals to leave there as soon as possible.

Government sources say that latest violence happened early today when militants raided a light industrial center on (Toniva) near Kieta, setting two warehouses on fire.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS quotes residents as saying that about 20 armed men were involved in the raid on the warehouses which came only hours after a Briton was fatally shot at the Bougainville Copper Mine site at Panguna.

The death led Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs to call on Australians without an essential reason to stay on Bougainville to leave as soon as possible. Britain's Foreign Office later issued a similar plea to its nationals.

In a report from Auckland, the French news agency, AFP, has stated that New Zealand has issued a similar warning and that New Zealand Navy and Air Force have been put on standby to pick up the estimated 180 New Zealanders now on the island.